

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 81-92

REVIEW OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SAN DIEGO BASIN MODIFYING BENEFICIAL USE DESIGNATIONS AND GROUNDWATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES IN THE UPPER ALISO BASIN, THE CARLSBAD SUBAREA, THE HEDIONDA SUBAREA, THE BATIQUITOS SUBAREA, THE ENCINA SUBUNIT, AND THE TELEGRAPH CANYON SUBAREA

WHEREAS:

1. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region, (Regional Board) adopted a Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego region on March 17, 1975.
2. The Water Quality Control Plan contains beneficial uses and numerical groundwater quality objectives for the subject subareas and subunits.
3. The Water Quality Control Plan was amended by the Regional Board on February 27, 1978.
4. On April 29, 1978, the State Board requested by Resolution No. 78-15 that the Regional Board:
 - "b. Identify, within thirty days, those areas where proposed reclamation projects would provide a water supply of comparable or better quality than existing supplies and those groundwater basins where existing water quality is degraded to the point where beneficial uses are marginal or do not exist; for such areas and basins, modify beneficial uses/ water quality objectives to foster wastewater reclamation.

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 - "d. Consider the elimination of all numerical objectives for groundwaters in favor of establishing a policy for protection of groundwaters consistent with the Nondegradation Policy which does allow for a controlled rate of degradation where reasonable and consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State."
5. On April 3, 1980, the State Board concluded in Order No. WQ 80-7 that the Regional Board had only partially complied with the requests contained in Resolution No. 78-15.
6. After holding public hearings on February 23, 1981 and March 23, 1981, the Regional Board, on March 23, 1981, adopted Resolution No. 81-16 (copy attached), amending the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin modifying the beneficial use designation and groundwater quality objectives of the subject hydrographic subareas.

7. The amendments, along with supporting documents and related information, were forwarded to the State Board for review and approval.
8. Review of the Regional Board's record indicates that the Regional Board relied mainly on the reports prepared by consultants.
9. The data presented, although limited, shows that the current total dissolved solids concentrations in the groundwater is higher than the present groundwater quality objectives. Further, the beneficial uses of groundwater in these hydrologic subareas are very limited or non-existent. This is due mainly to the poor quality of the groundwater present in the subareas.
10. The estimated safe yield for the groundwaters under consideration, although poor in quality, is approximately 2,203 acre-feet per year total for all the subject hydrographic subareas.
11. The maximum yield resulting from reclamation in the subject hydrographic subareas is estimated to be about 9,700 acre-feet per year.
12. The total dissolved solids concentration of reclaimed water is expected to be approximately 1,100 milligrams per liter while the present concentration of total dissolved solids in the groundwater of the areas under consideration ranges from 1,123 to 2,196 milligrams per liter.
13. The Regional Board staff indicates that the basis for the proposed limits was the average of the concentration limits recommended in the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Water Quality Criteria (Red Book) for agricultural irrigation of salt-tolerant crops which would constitute the major potential use of the groundwater in the subject subareas.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Regional Board's amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan as contained in Resolution No. 81-16 is approved.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on September 17, 1981.


Clint Whitney
Executive Director