

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
RESOLUTION NO. 82-45

APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO TULARE LAKE BASIN WATER QUALITY CONTROL  
PLAN (5D) DELETING THE PROHIBITION OF SEPTIC TANK SYSTEMS WITHIN  
THE THREE RIVERS AREA

WHEREAS:

1. On July 25, 1975, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, (Regional Board) adopted a Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin (basin plan). This basin plan was approved by the State Board on August 21, 1975 in Resolution No. 75-80.
2. The Regional Board adopted an amendment to the basin plan which established a prohibition of septic tank systems within the Three Rivers area by Regional Board Order No. 76-88 on March 26, 1976. This amendment was approved by the State Board on May 20, 1976 in Resolution No. 76-52.
3. The discharge of wastes from leaching or percolation systems was prohibited after January 1, 1980 by Regional Board Resolution No. 76-88.
4. The final compliance date of January 1, 1980 was not met. The Regional Board adopted Order No. 80-095 on June 26, 1980 requiring the property owners within the Three Rivers Community Services District (TRCSD) to cease and desist discharging wastes in violation of Regional Board Order No. 76-88.
5. The State Board reviewed Regional Board Order No. 80-095 pursuant to a petition for review filed by TRCSD. The State Board subsequently adopted Order No. W.Q. 81-3 which states, in part, "While the requirements of Sections 13280-13284 do not apply to Basin Plan prohibitions adopted before January 1, 1978, we direct the Regional Board to review the Basin Plan prohibition for the Three Rivers area in accord with those sections. Order No. 80-095 should remain in effect at least until such review is completed."
6. The Regional Board staff indicated that they reviewed a representative number of special design systems installed since the prohibition went into effect and concluded that adequate protection of water quality and beneficial uses and prevention of nuisances, pollution, and contamination can be attained by appropriate design, location, sizing, operation, construction, and maintenance of individual disposal systems in lieu of prohibition of discharges for such systems.
7. TRCSD has formed an On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone (OSWDZ) in accord with Health and Safety Code Sections 6950-6981, adopted ordinances concerning wastewater disposal, and has provided assurance to the Board that they have initiated a billing program, started an inspection program, adopted procedures to ensure new systems conform to TRCSD standards, and incorporated within the ordinances the authority to correct existing and future disposal problems.

8. The Regional Board, on July 23, 1982, adopted a basin plan amendment (Resolution No. 82-087) deleting the Three Rivers septic tank prohibition.

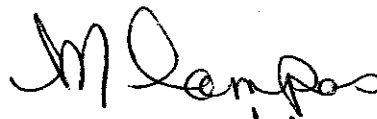
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Resources Control Board approves the amendment to the Tulare Lake Basin Plan deleting the prohibition of septic tank systems in the Three Rivers area with the following recommendations:

1. The Regional Board, in cooperation with TRCSD, should develop a self-monitoring program for surface and ground water quality in the OSWDZ to be implemented by TRCSD.
2. The Regional Board should request an annual report be prepared and submitted by TRCSD documenting the activities of its on-site wastewater management program. The report should include, but not be limited to, the following information: (a) both tabular and geographical summaries of the monitoring data obtained; and (b) a comprehensive discussion of the compliance record and corrective actions taken or planned that may be needed to bring existing or new systems into full compliance with requirements of the Regional Board and TRCSD.

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 October 21, 1982.

  
Clint Whitney  
Executive Director