

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
RESOLUTION NO 86-40

AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS  
TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO REGULATE SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE

WHEREAS:


1. The State Board recognizes that irrigated agriculture utilizes 85 percent of the usable water in California and that approximately 15 percent of this applied water is dedicated to deep percolation to leach salts below the crop root zone.
2. The State Board recognizes that the volume of these unregulated nonpoint source agricultural subsurface drainage discharges required to leach salts is roughly equal to all the point source wastes currently under waste discharge requirements.
3. The State Board recognizes that although the greatest adverse impacts of subsurface agricultural drainage, to date, have been seen in the San Joaquin River and Tulare Lake basins due to their geology and long history of intensive irrigation, similar conditions may exist in other areas of the State, e.g., the Salton Sea and Buena Vista Lake basins.
4. The State Board created a technical committee, by the adoption of Order No. WQ 85-1, for the purposes of, among other things, development of proposed regulatory program for agricultural discharges in the San Joaquin River basin.
5. Because existing State and Regional Board resources are not sufficient to develop and implement a regulatory program to control the discharge of subsurface agricultural drainage, the administration has proposed an integrated program utilizing existing Board programs, studies of other agencies and necessary additional resources to resolve concerns related to subsurface drainage.
6. Implementation of the proposal will require the technical expertise of the Departments of Water Resources and Fish and Game, the University of California, and other as yet unspecified experts to verify the occurrence of adverse impacts from subsurface agricultural drainage and to evaluate the effectiveness of corrective actions.
7. The work to be accomplished is necessary for the Board to develop and carry out a program to regulate the discharge of subsurface agricultural drainage in areas where corrective action is necessary.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the State Board authorizes the Executive Director, or his designee, to negotiate and execute interagency agreements with the above named State agencies and contracts with other recognized experts not to exceed \$755,900, or a lesser amount if such is approved by the Budget Act for FY 1986-87 to undertake the work to help the Board develop and carry out a program to regulate the discharge of subsurface agricultural drainage where necessary.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Interim 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 May 22, 1986.

  
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Raymond Walsh  
Interim Executive Director