

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 87- 33

CONSIDERATION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL
PLAN FOR THE NORTH COASTAL BASIN (1B) BY THE ADDITION OF A
LONG-RANGE ACTION PLAN FOR THE RUSSIAN RIVER WITH RESPECT
TO POINT-SOURCE MEASURES

WHEREAS:

1. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coastal Region (North Coast Regional Board), adopted the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coastal Basin (Basin Plan) on March 20, 1975.
2. The Basin Plan contains an Action Plan for the Santa Rosa area and a waste discharge prohibition which does not allow point-source waste discharges to the Russian River, including those of the City of Santa Rosa, during the period of May 14 through October 1 of each year.
3. The Basin Plan currently mandates a minimum of secondary treatment for discharges of municipal waste to the Russian River at levels not to exceed one percent of the river's flow.
4. The North Coast Regional Board identified the need to develop a long-range action plan for the Russian River basin in order to ensure the future protection of beneficial uses of the Russian River and its tributaries.
5. On June 27, 1986 the North Coast Regional Board adopted an Interim Action Plan for the City of Santa Rosa through Resolution No. 86-121 requiring the discharge of only advanced treated wastewater for most of the City's municipal discharge, while the City develops and constructs a long-term project for the treatment and disposal of sewage.
6. The Interim Action Plan for the City of Santa Rosa expires in 1990.
7. The State Department of Health Services recommends that all municipal wastewater discharged to streams used for domestic water supply be treated to a "pathogen free level". "Pathogen free" effluent is that which has been treated to advanced levels including chemical flocculation, coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection.
8. The North Coast Regional Board recognizes that improvements in municipal sewage treatment facilities require substantial capital expenditures and thus may require extended time periods for implementation.
9. Division 7 of the California Water Code specifies that basin plans be periodically reviewed and, if appropriate, revised.

10. On August 28, 1986, following a public hearing, the North Coast Regional Board adopted Resolution No. 86-148 (attached) amending its Basin Plan by adding language establishing a long-range action plan for the Russian River basin.
11. The adopted Long-Range Action Plan implementation deadline is imprecise and may lead to misinterpretation as to when the policy becomes effective.
12. The Long-Range Action Plan language is not specific enough as to what is meant by "discharge of waste" in the summer season prohibition (Item No. 1).
13. The Long-Range Action Plan lacks specific procedures in reporting progress toward compliance with the new waste treatment requirements.
14. Basin plan amendments do not become effective until approved by the State Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the amendment to the Basin Plan as described in North Coast Regional Board Resolution No. 86-148 adopted on August 27, 1986 be remanded for further consideration and to direct the North Coast Regional Board to revise the Long-Range Action Plan for the Russian River as follows:

1. The Long-Range Action Plan for the Russian River shall include a specific date for implementation.
2. The Item No. 1 of the Long-Range Action Plan should be clarified to define what type of waste discharge is to be limited during the period of May 15 and September 30 each year.
3. The North Coast Regional Board shall incorporate specific procedures requiring each affected discharger to report progress toward compliance with the Long-Range Action Plan on an annual basis.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Administrative Assistant to the 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 April 16, 1987.


Maureen Marche
Administrative Assistant to the Board