

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 88-79

AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS TO CONTINUE DEVELOPMENT
OF A PROGRAM TO REGULATE SUBSURFACE AGRICULTURAL DRAINAGE

WHEREAS:


1. The State Board recognizes that irrigated agriculture utilizes in excess of 80 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 this unregulated subsurface drainage from nonpoint agricultural sources used 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 discharge observed to date have been in the San Joaquin River basin, there are indications that other areas of the State are or may be experiencing similar adverse impacts; e.g., the Tulare Lake and Salton Sea 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 a proposed regulatory program for agricultural discharges in the San Joaquin River basin.
5. The technical committee's report on the "Regulation of Agricultural Drainage to the San Joaquin River" was accepted by the State Board on August 20, 1987 and identified specific research needed prior to the adoption of long term water quality objectives and an appropriate implementation schedule.
6. The State Board has developed a three-tiered statewide program to investigate and subsequently regulate subsurface agricultural drainage in problem areas.
7. The State Board program complements the work of other state and federal agencies.
8. Implementation of the overall program requires the technical expertise of the Departments of Water Resources and Fish and Game, the University of California, and/or other as yet unspecified consultants to verify the occurrence of adverse impacts from subsurface agricultural drainage and to evaluate the effectiveness of corrective actions.
9. The work to be accomplished is necessary for the Board to develop the means to control and carry out a program to regulate the discharge of subsurface agricultural drainage in specific 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 and amendments thereto with the above-named State agencies and/or contracts and amendments thereto with other recognized consultants not to exceed \$736,000, or a lesser amount as approved by the Budget Act for FY 1988-89 to carry out a program to regulate the discharge of subsurface agricultural drainage where necessary.

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 July 21, 1988.


Maureen Marche
Administrative Assistant to the Board