

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 90-98

APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE
WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE
SAN DIEGO REGION ESTABLISHING A REGIONWIDE GROUND WATER
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REGARDING THE USE OF RECLAIMED WATER

WHEREAS:

1. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Regional Board) adopted the Comprehensive Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (Basin Plan) on March 17, 1975.
2. Section 13240 of the California Water Code specifies that basin plans be periodically reviewed and, if appropriate, revised.
3. The San Diego Regional Board staff prepared documents and followed procedures satisfying environmental documentation requirements in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act.
4. On April 23, 1990, the San Diego Regional Board adopted Resolution No. 90-26 (Attachment 1) which modified the Implementation Plan of the Basin Plan by specifying criteria for issuance of requirements for reclaimed water use.
5. Based on comments received from interested parties at its April 23, 1990 meeting, the San Diego Regional Board replaced Resolution No. 90-26 on June 4, 1990 by adopting Resolution No. 90-40 (Attachment 2) specifying additional criteria for issuance of requirements for reclaimed water use.
6. Resolution No. 90-40 protects ground water beneficial uses by requiring the discharger to demonstrate that the reclaimed water use at the specified effluent concentrations will not affect beneficial uses and that the discharge complies with the requirements of State Board Resolution No. 68-16.
7. Resolution No. 90-40 contains language in the first paragraph of the amendment to Chapter 5 of the Basin Plan which reads:

"The Regional Board shall regulate discharges of reclaimed water by establishing waste discharge (emphasis added) requirements which contain effluent limitations...."

As this provision could limit the San Diego Regional Board's options for allowing timely implementation of reclamation projects by precluding the optional issuance of waivers, the terms "waste discharge" should not be approved as part of this amendment.

8. Resolution No. 90-40 deals with complex concepts and contains language that may be misinterpreted; therefore, the Basin Plan amendment contained in Resolution No. 90-40 is understood to mean:

Use of adequately treated wastewater for irrigation or ground water recharge may be allowed in areas where reuse is clearly beneficial, provided that:

- a. The constituent concentrations of the reclaimed water are not higher than the applicable ground water quality objectives, and
- b. The quality ensures reasonable protection of beneficial uses, and
- c. The wastewater will displace the use of imported water used in the area or ground water having constituent concentrations higher than the applicable ground water quality objectives for the area.

The San Diego Regional Board shall regulate discharges of reclaimed water by establishing requirements (e.g., waste discharge requirements, reclamation requirements, or waivers) which contain effluent limitations designed to protect designated beneficial uses and which ensure compliance with State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 68-16.

For areas that satisfy the conditions of the preceding paragraph, the San Diego Regional Board shall specify effluent limitations for constituent concentrations at levels no less than that of the area's water supply. For areas that satisfy all of the conditions of the preceding paragraph and are downgradient of any municipal supply reservoir, the San Diego Regional Board shall establish minimum effluent limitations for constituent concentrations not less than that of the imported water supply plus an incremental increase equal to the typical incremental increase added to the water supply by domestic use. The maximum effluent limitation allowed shall not exceed the Basin Plan's applicable ground water quality objective.

9. Resolution No. 90-40 is consistent with the intent of California Water Code Section 13500 et seq. regarding Water Reclamation Law.
10. Section 13245 of the California Water Code specifies that a revision of a water quality control plan adopted by a Regional Water Quality Control Board does not become effective until approved by the State Board.
11. San Diego Regional Board Resolution No. 90-40 pertains to ground water beneficial uses only and is not subject to approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the federal Clean Water Act.

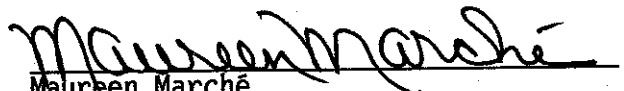
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the State Board:

1. Approves, with the exceptions stated below, San Diego Regional Board Resolution No. 90-40 amending the Comprehensive Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin establishing a Regionwide Ground Water Implementation Plan for the use of reclaimed water:
 - a. The words "waste discharge" in the second sentence of the first paragraph of the amendment are not approved in order to retain the full authority of the San Diego Regional Board to regulate discharges of reclaimed water.
 - b. The remaining portions of the amendment are approved with the understanding that the full intent and meaning of the amendment is as restated in "Whereas No. 8" of this Resolution.
2. Directs the San Diego Regional Board to revise, at its earliest convenience, the amendment in accordance with Resolve No. 1.a. and 1.b. of this Resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Administrative Assistant to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a policy duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on September 20, 1990.


Maureen Marché
Administrative Assistant to the Board