

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 94-20

AUTHORIZATION OF POTENTIAL VARIATIONS IN FLOW TO MEET
SALINITY STANDARDS IN WATER RIGHT DECISION 1485 (D-1485)
FOR TWO SITES IN THE WESTERN SUISUN MARSH

WHEREAS:

1. The Suisun Marsh salinity standards contained in D-1485 are implemented in stages beginning in the eastern Suisun Marsh in 1988 with full compliance required at the last station in the western Suisun Marsh in 1997.
2. The standards for two stations, Chadbourne Slough at Chadbourne Road (S-21) (renamed Chadbourne Slough at Sunrise) and Cordelia Slough at Cordelia-Goodyear Ditch (S-97) (renamed Cordelia Slough at Ibis) began on October 1, 1993.
3. The plan for meeting the standards at these locations is to release up to 20 cubic feet per second of North Bay Aqueduct water into Green Valley Creek/Cordelia Slough.
4. Because of uncertainties in modeling assumptions and the need to optimize real time operations, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) have requested authorization to conduct operational tests this water year which may cause variations in meeting these standards. The tests will be conducted during February 1994 through May 1994.
5. Condition 6 of D-1485 allows variations meeting fish and wildlife standards for the purpose of conducting tests or experiments for the protection of fish and wildlife, upon the review and approval of the State Water Board.
6. The details of the tests are still being negotiated between DWR and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG).
7. The Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement among the USBR, DWR, DFG and Suisun Resource Conservation District calls for compliance with standards at S-21 and S-97 beginning on October 1, 1994 (five construction seasons after the initial operation of the Montezuma Slough control structure, November 22, 1989).
8. The proposed State Water Board action is exempt from CEQA pursuant to 14 CCR Section 15306 (basic data collection, research).
9. The requested variations in the Suisun Marsh salinity standards will not cause violations of municipal, industrial and agricultural standards in D-1485.

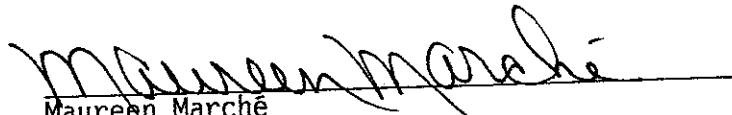
10. Because of the limited diversion rate increase from the Sacramento River, the expected minimal salmon attractant effect of the releases into Green Valley Creek this year, and the likelihood that variations in salinity will be minimal as a result of this test, this temporary authorization will not have a significant adverse effect on fish and wildlife.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the State Water Board authorizes the DWR and the USBR to vary the flows for meeting the Suisun Marsh water quality standards at stations S-21 and S-97 during the period February 1994 through May 1994 for the purpose of conducting operation tests pursuant to Condition 6 of D-1485. Variations in meeting the standards at these stations during the test will not be considered a violation.
2. That this authorization does not authorize the DWR or the USBR to violate existing or future requirements imposed under either the federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C.A. Sections 1531 to 1544) or the California Endangered Species Act (Fish and Game Code Sections 2050 to 2098).
3. This authorization is subject to the DWR and the USBR meeting all requirements of the DFG for protection of fish and wildlife during the tests.
4. The Executive Director of the State Water Board may revoke or suspend this authorization at any time during the test period for good cause, including but not limited to failure of the tests to show a substantial likelihood of reliably meeting the standards, adverse effects on meeting other standards, or adverse effects on fish and wildlife.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Administrative Assistant to the State Water 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 February 17, 1994.


Maureen Marché
Administrative Assistant to the Board