

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 94-33

APPROVAL OF A STATE REVOLVING FUND LOAN FOR
THE OJAI VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT TREATMENT
PLANT UPGRADE PROJECT STATE REVOLVING FUND
(SRF) PROJECT NO. C-06-4117-110

WHEREAS:

1. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), on August 18, 1988, adopted the "Policy for Implementing the State Revolving Fund for Construction of Wastewater Treatment Facilities" and amended it on September 20, 1990, January 21, 1993 and September 23, 1993;
2. The SWRCB, on September 23, 1993, adopted the FFY 1994 SRF Loan Program Priority List which includes the Ojai Valley Sanitary District's Treatment Plant Upgrade project;
3. The Division of Clean Water Programs has approved the project report, environmental documents, and revenue program for the Treatment Plant Upgrade project; and
4. The Ojai Valley Sanitary District has certified an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), State Clearinghouse No. 93061047, for the proposed project, which has been reviewed and considered by the SWRCB, and we have determined that:
 - a) As stated in the EIR, even with the imposition of feasible mitigation, there may be a significant and unavoidable impact related to cumulative solid waste. The project would potentially generate sludge in excess of the Ventura County cumulative solid waste disposal threshold of 13 tons per year (tpy), resulting in a significant cumulative solid waste impact. The following mitigation measure, as identified in the EIR, will be required for the project:

The Ojai Valley Sanitary District shall increase diversion efforts currently occurring at the Ojai Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant such that a source reduction of fifty percent (50%) of the project-generated sludge is achieved by the year 2000, consistent with Chapter 1095, Statutes of 1989, commonly referred to as AB 939. Such efforts should include:

Development and implementation of a sludge management plan. Development of such a management plan shall identify specific measures that will result in a fifty percent (50%) diversion of the project-generated sludge by the year 2000. Such measures may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Diversion of project-generated sludge through use as a soil amendment. Diversion in this manner would require compliance with federal and state sludge disposal regulations;

Diversion of project-generated sludge through use as a daily landfill cover. Such disposal would require negotiations with the Ventura Regional Sanitation District and/or other regional landfill operators; and

Diversion through other appropriate diversion programs as allowed by current or future sludge disposal regulations.

Because a sludge management plan has not yet been developed and implemented, the actual reduction in the amount of sludge that will require landfill disposal cannot be determined at this time. If implementation of a sludge management plan results in a sludge disposal rate of less than 13 tpy, then cumulative solid waste impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level. However, if implementation of the sludge management plan does not result in a sludge disposal rate of less than 13 tpy, the project would have a significant unavoidable cumulative solid waste impact, based upon the current Ventura County cumulative waste disposal threshold.

The SWRCB hereby adopts the following statement of overriding considerations to address the unmitigable cumulative solid waste impact that may potentially occur from approval of the project:

The project would upgrade the Ojai Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant to a tertiary level of treatment to comply with the Waste Discharge Requirements and Cease and Desist Order issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region. Project implementation would result in the following benefits:

Improvements of surface water quality within the Lower Ventura River downstream of the Ojai Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant outfall due to improved effluent quality associated with tertiary filtration and nutrient removal;

Potential improvement of ground water quality due to infiltration of surface waters;

Reduction of risks associated with the current storage of gaseous chlorine and sulfur dioxide onsite;

Improvement of aquatic habitat for native plants and fishes through the reduction of BOD, suspended solids, and nutrient levels, and through improvement of dissolved oxygen levels; and

Improvement of the recreational experience downstream of the treatment plant through improvement of water quality in the Lower Ventura River.

The Ojai Valley Sanitary District currently diverts approximately eighty percent (80%) of its sludge through use of soil amendment. This amount is consistent with AB 939, which requires a minimum diversion rate of twenty-five percent (25%) by the year 1995. The potential for total diversion of project-generated sludge through continued use as a soil amendment and/or landfill cover material exists. Sludge generated by the proposed project will be non-hazardous, and will present no public health risk. As provided by the mitigation measure, the Ojai Valley Sanitary District shall increase diversion efforts such that a source reduction of fifty percent (50%) of the additional sludge generated by the project is achieved by the year 2000, consistent with AB 939 requirements. Following the implementation of diversion efforts, including a sludge management plan, the project disposal rate is anticipated to be reduced, although it may exceed the cumulative threshold of 13 tpy. The inability to predict whether the project disposal rate will exceed 13 tpy is based upon the inability to predict future demand for such reclaimed solids. In addition, future long-term capacity for solid waste disposal cannot be predicted at this time, given the current shortage of landfill capacity within Ventura County and the fact that the County Integrated Waste Management Plan is currently in preparation and has not been completed. In balancing the project benefits against this potential significant cumulative solid waste impact, the SWRCB determines that the impact (if it occurs) is, therefore, acceptable.

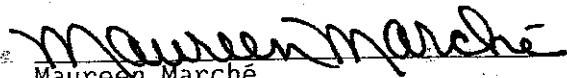
- b) Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into the proposed project which avoid or substantially lessen the other potentially significant environmental effects identified in the EIR to less than significant levels with respect to the following aspects of the project: (i) water quality impacts resulting from downslope migration of debris into the treatment plant's outfall pond during construction of the overflow effluent outfall which will be mitigated by the installation of a debris barrier; (ii) potential erosion of the foundation bedrock for the treatment plant's flood control embankment which will be mitigated by periodic inspections and structural work as required.
- c) With respect to other potentially significant environmental impacts identified in the EIR, appropriate changes or alterations are not within the responsibility and jurisdiction of the SWRCB. Such other changes or alterations have been adopted or should be adopted by other agencies.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Resources Control Board approves a SRF loan of \$10.0 million for the Ojai Valley Sanitary District's Treatment Plant Upgrade project, with a repayment period of twenty (20) years, and the first loan repayment due one (1) year after completion of construction.

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 21, 1994.



Maureen Marché
Administrative Assistant to the Board