

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2000 - 021

APPROVAL OF A STATE REVOLVING FUND (SRF) LOAN
FOR THE WASTEWATER EFFLUENT DISPOSAL/GEYSERS RECHARGE PROJECT
CITY OF SANTA ROSA (CITY)
SRF LOAN PROJECT NO. C-06-4062

WHEREAS

- 1 The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), on February 16, 1995, adopted the "*Policy for Implementing the State Revolving Fund for Construction of Wastewater Treatment Facilities,*" and revised it on June 18, 1998;
- 2 The SWRCB, on June 18, 1999, adopted the state fiscal year 1999/2000 SRF Loan Program Priority List which included the Wastewater Effluent Discharge Geysers Recharge Project for the City in Priority Class C;
- 3 The Division of Clean Water Programs (Division) has approved the Facility Plan for the Project;
- 4 The Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) is the water purveyor for the sewer service area and both the City and SCWA are signatories to *the Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Urban Water Conservation in California*; and
- 5 The City of Santa Rosa and the Santa Rosa Board of Public Utilities have certified an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (State Clearinghouse No. 94103069), two Addendums and four Supplemental EIRs (State Clearinghouse No. 99032063) which have been review and considered, and it has been determined that:
 - (a) As stated in the EIR/EIS, Addendums, and Supplemental EIRs, the project may result in significant and unavoidable impacts with respect to (i) geologic impacts from locating the pipeline component in areas of unstable slope conditions; (ii) water quality impacts from increased algal growth during discharge operations; (iii) traffic and circulation impacts from construction and operation of the pipeline component, pump stations, and geysers steamfield component; (iv) air quality impacts from odors related to the headworks expansion; (v) noise impacts from construction activities and operation of the pump station component; and (vi) aesthetic impacts on foreground and middleground views from roadways, recreation use areas and other public use areas.

The SWRCB hereby adopts the following statement of overriding considerations to address the unmitigable significant impacts that may potentially occur from approval of the project:

Implementation of the Geysers Recharge Project would result in benefits, including: superior use of water resources, maximizing current reuse opportunities, protecting beneficial uses by minimizing discharge to the Russian River, providing best degree of weather independence in accordance with Regional Board discharge requirements, and affording a high level of reliability for diverse types of reuse. In balancing the project benefits against the potential significant impacts regarding geology, water quality, traffic

and circulation, air quality, and noise, the SWRCB finds that the public benefits of the project outweigh the unavoidable impacts and, therefore, determines that the impacts are acceptable.

Changes or alternations have been required or incorporated into the proposed project which avoid or reduce to less than significant levels other potentially significant impacts identified in the environmental documents with respect to (i) water quality impacts from soils erosion and construction activities which will be mitigated by removing deposited sediments, restoring original contours and drainage patterns, implementing stream bank stabilization measures, encouraging natural regeneration of native herbaceous vegetation, revegetating riparian habitat and stream banks with native seed stock or cuttings, using jack and bore construction for live streams, limiting construction during the rainy season, minimizing soil exposure and cut and fill along streams, limiting pulling of tree stumps and leaving existing vegetation root systems intact, using sediment control facilities, berming construction storage areas, diverting runoff from construction areas, preventing contamination from construction vehicles and equipment, and providing employee training programs; (ii) water quality impacts from discharge activities which will be mitigated by annually evaluating EPA-approved analytical methods for specified constituents and implementing new technologies and methodologies, implementing a source identification program as necessary, revising discharge operations to reduce effects of reclaimed water on waterways, emphasizing winter discharge while reducing fall and spring discharge, and implementing a Total and Ammonia Nitrogen Source Control Program; (iii) cultural resource impacts which will be mitigated by complying with provisions contained in a Memorandum of Agreement (effective January 21, 2000) developed among the SWRCB, Bureau of Land Management, and the State Historic Preservation Officer for the project; and (iv) threatened and endangered species which will be mitigated by complying with provisions contained in a July 17, 1998, Programmatic Biological Opinion developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for endangered plant species on the Santa Rosa Plain, conducting pre-construction surveys, consulting with the FWS to determine suitable setbacks to avoid impacts to the northern spotted owl and other sensitive species, clearly delineating exclusionary buffer zones, consulting with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding potential impacts to coho salmon and steelhead trout, ensuring that culvert construction does not occur in live streams, constructing coffer dams to divert flow and requiring a fishery biologist to capture and relocate fish and other vertebrates, preventing deposition of downstream sedimentation, using jack and bore or microtunneling for stream crossings, and revegetating disturbed areas.

With respect to other potentially significant environmental impacts identified in the environmental documents, appropriate changes or alternations are within the jurisdiction of other public agencies. Such other changes or alterations have been adopted or should be adopted by such other agencies.

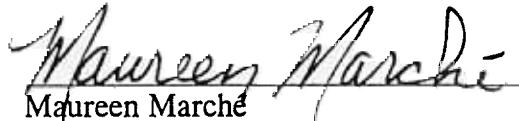
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Resources Control Board:

- 1 Approves a preliminary SRF loan commitment of \$101 million with \$25 million the first year of the Geysers Recharge Project construction, with a repayment period of up to 20 years, and the first repayment due one year after completion of construction for each contract;
2. Will withdraw this preliminary SRF loan commitment if final plans and specifications are not submitted by April 30, 2001. The Division may approve up to a 90-day extension for good cause;
3. Directs the Division to allocate the remaining \$76 million consistent with the construction schedule and availability of funds; and
4. Will not issue a loan contract until the City obtains approval to change the point of discharge in accordance with Water Code section 1211.

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 March 15, 2000.


Maureen Marché
Administrative Assistant to the Board