

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

In the Matter of Review of)
Waste Discharge Requirements)
Prescribed by the California)
Regional Water Quality Control)
Board, Central Valley Region, for)
Various Industries in the East)
Contra Costa Area of the)
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta)

Order No. 71-7

1. The East Contra Costa area, located at the confluence of the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers at the western edge of the Delta, is one of the most environmentally critical areas in the State. It is at the hub of water flows from the entire Central Valley and is the major source of fresh water inflow to the San Francisco Bay.

2. The area contains one of the major concentrations of industries in the State of California, most of which located there because of the availability of adequate water supply and their ability to easily dispose of wastes.

3. Over the years, waste discharges from these industries have been regulated by requirements established by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

4. Because of the tremendous number of waste dischargers and the large area administered by that regional board, it has not been possible for it to give detailed attention to all significant sources of pollution in the region.

5. A majority of the waste discharge requirements established for the eleven major industries in the area are over ten years old. These requirements reflect the policies which then existed that waste discharge was a beneficial use of our waters, and waste assimilation was considered in establishing requirements.

6. Technology has expanded in the past few years rapidly and it is now recognized as essential that detailed numerical standards be established for all effluent discharges including criteria for toxicity, biostimulation, and esthetic parameters as well as the classical criteria for organic substances, solids, and mineral constituents.

7. The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, which became effective January 1, 1970, established new concepts and administrative procedures for protecting water quality.

8. The San Francisco Bay Regional Board has established very restrictive waste discharge requirements and initiated an accelerated enforcement program for all major discharges in its region in the western Delta.

9. The State's approach to these problems should be uniform in principle following general policy which is applicable for all discharges to these waters. Specific requirements may vary depending upon the type of process and the point of discharge but must assure a high degree of water quality protection.

10. This board's staff has conducted a preliminary review of waste discharge requirements for the eleven major industries in this area and has reported that all requirements are inadequate and that monitoring records on effluent quality and receiving water quality characteristics are needed to determine the extent of water pollution resulting from any discharge in the area. The industries in question are:

- (a) Kaiser Gypsum Company
Antioch, Contra Costa County
- (b) American Crystal Sugar Company
Clarksburg, Yolo County
- (c) Crown Zellerbach Corporation
Antioch, Contra Costa County
- (d) E. I. duPont de Nemours Company
Antioch, Contra Costa County
- (e) Hickmott Canning Company
Antioch, Contra Costa County
- (f) Fibreboard Paper Products Corporation
Antioch, Contra Costa County
- (g) Tillie Lewis Foods, Inc. - Plant "W"
Antioch, Contra Costa County
- (h) Libbey-Owens Ford Glass Company
Lathrop, San Joaquin County
- (i) California Cannery and Growers - Plant No. 6
Thornton, San Joaquin County
- (j) Holly Sugar Company
Tracy, San Joaquin County
- (k) Tri-Valley Growers
San Joaquin County

It is ordered that:

1. This board immediately undertake a complete review pursuant to Water Code Section 13320 of the failure of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to revise the waste discharge requirements for these industries.
2. The executive officer is directed to further investigate the waste discharges of these industries and review the existing requirements, to prepare proposed revised requirements and time schedules for compliance and send copies of them to the affected dischargers. He is further authorized and directed to require such technical and monitoring program reports of each discharger as he deems to be necessary for the purposes of the board's review. He shall submit a report to this board at its regular meeting on February 18 and at that time recommend such further action as seems appropriate including the scheduling of public hearings for consideration of such revised requirements as may appear necessary.

Dated: February 9, 1971

KERRY W. MULLIGAN
Kerry W. Mulligan, Chairman

E. F. DIBBLE
E. F. Dibble, Vice Chairman

NORMAN B. HUME
Norman B. Hume, Member

RONALD B. ROBIE
Ronald B. Robie, Member

W. W. ADAMS
W. W. Adams, Member