

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

In the Matter of the Petition of )  
the City of Mount Shasta for )  
Review of Water Quality Staff )  
Determinations )

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Order No. WQG 74-24

BY BOARD CHAIRMAN ADAMS:

By letter dated June 25, 1974, the City of Mount Shasta (petitioner) requested the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to review certain determinations of the staff of the Division of Water Quality (Staff).

A hearing in this matter was held by the State Board on August 8, 1974.<sup>1</sup>

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT, STAFF  
DETERMINATIONS, AND CONTENTIONS OF  
PETITIONER

Petitioner has a project on the 1972-73 Project Priority List. The project encompasses upgrading and expansion of existing secondary treatment facilities located approximately two miles south of the City of Mount Shasta, interceptor construction, and construction of a force main and subsurface leach field for effluent disposal.

The controversy before us relates exclusively to the interceptor portion of the project. The present interceptor

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1. The hearing record was augmented by additional information supplied by petitioner in a letter dated August 27, 1974. The additional information supplied has been considered by the State Board in formulating this decision.

utilized by petitioner consists of approximately 13,000 feet of interceptor running generally southerly from the City of Mount Shasta to the existing treatment plant. Due to prior changes in treatment processes and location of facilities, portions of the interceptor were constructed at different times. The northerly 9,000 feet of interceptor pipe were installed in 1938. This section of the pipe is approximately 36 years old and in a deteriorated condition. The southerly 4,000 feet of interceptor pipe were placed in approximately 1967 and are only 7 years old.

Initially, petitioner apparently contemplated replacement of the old and deteriorated 9,000-foot section of interceptor pipe as a part of the project, with the newer section to be continued in use. Subsequent to concept approval, analysis of the situation has apparently convinced the petitioner that due to alleged engineering defects, including defects of slope, the newer section of interceptor pipe cannot adequately transport anticipated quantities of sewage in this portion of the line. Accordingly, petitioner contends that in order to provide adequate capacity in this section of the line, it will be required to either replace the newer section of the interceptor with a properly engineered line, or to parallel this section of the interceptor with a relief line. Petitioner contends that this portion of its project should be determined to be grant eligible.

Staff initially determined in May of 1972 that no portion of the interceptor construction was grant eligible, since interceptor replacement would not qualify under then current

State Board grant regulations as a Class A interceptor.<sup>2</sup> Subsequently, however, the State Board modified its approach to the funding of interceptors. In April of 1973, the State Board determined that funding concepts applicable to interceptors should be revised so that interceptors which would replace an existing, deteriorated interceptor which had served a long and useful life, and which would eliminate a severe water quality problem, should be made grant eligible. The State Board subsequently adopted regulations to provide funding for such cases.

In reliance upon the modified position of the State Board, the Staff advised the petitioner that replacement of the old and deteriorated portion of the interceptor pipe would be considered grant eligible but that the remaining portion of the interceptor, i.e., the southerly 4,000 feet of interceptor pipe, would not be grant eligible even under the modified State Board approach. It is this Staff determination which is in issue.

#### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Petitioner has indicated that, insofar as a grant applicant is concerned, it makes very little difference whether an interceptor is unusable because of age and deterioration or because of engineering defects. In either case, in the eyes of the petitioner, the defective line must be replaced or

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2. This initial determination by Staff was unquestionably correct. The grant regulations then applicable clearly precluded grant eligibility for the costs of the interceptor construction work proposed by the petitioner. See Sections 2102(h) and 2120(d)(1), Subchapter 7, Chapter 3, Title 23, California Administrative Code, adopted on February 17, 1972.

relieved, and petitioner believes that grant eligibility should be provided in both cases. This argument, disregards two fundamental principles which are applicable to the grant program.

First, there is and has been a limit on grant funds available for construction of California projects. Wastewater treatment plant construction needs in California far exceed available funds. Because of lack of funds, the State Board has been compelled to develop a priority system for allocation of funds. There are a large number of deserving projects in California which cannot be funded at all.

Second, the State Board decided some years ago that greater benefits would accrue from use of the limited funds available for treatment of waste rather than for transportation for treatment. We still believe this policy to be appropriate. While we have over recent years provided for some funding of interceptors for a number of reasons, it has generally been our practice and policy to construe strictly those grant regulations dealing with interceptor funding,<sup>3</sup> and to limit funding of interceptors to those cases which clearly fell within the funding exceptions allowed by our grant regulations. We see no reason to change our policy at this point, and it is clear that under our applicable grant regulations the southerly 4,000 feet of proposed interceptor is not grant eligible as Staff has determined.

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3. See State Board Orders Nos. WQG 73-21, 74-3 and 74-12.

Outside of the exceptions provided by applicable grant regulations, interceptor funding will have to remain a local responsibility.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the petition of the City of Mount Shasta is denied and the Staff determination complained of is affirmed.

Dated: December 19, 1974

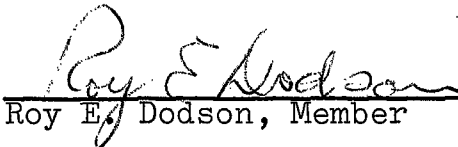
We Concur:



W. W. Adams, Chairman



Ronald B. Robie, Vice Chairman



Roy E. Dodson, Member



Mrs. Carl H. (Jean) Auer, Member



W. Don Maughan, Member