

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 83- 47

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, CENTRAL VALLEY REGION'S WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN, TULARE LAKE BASIN (5D), REGARDING DISPOSAL OF OIL FIELD WASTEWATER

WHEREAS:

1. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, (Regional Board) adopted the Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin (5D) (basin plan) on July 25, 1975.
2. In separate policy statements, the basin plan establishes maximum salinity limits (total dissolved solids, chlorides, and boron) for oil field wastewater discharges into unlined sumps and all point source discharges to surface waters and stream channels.
3. On October 22, 1982, the Regional Board adopted an amendment to the basin plan.
4. The amendment calls for inclusion of a statement in the "Policy on Oil Field Wastewater Disposal" which will allow the Regional Board the flexibility to permit on a case-by-case basis discharges of oil field wastewater to surface waters and unlined sumps at salinity levels higher than established limits.
5. Control measures have been incorporated in the additional basin plan language by placing on the discharger the burden of proving that exceeding the salinity standards will not substantially affect water quality nor cause a violation of water quality objectives.
6. The Regional Board duly noticed the proposed amendment and requested comment; no objection to the amendment was received.
7. The Regional Board has determined that the amendment will not have an adverse impact on the environment.
8. Basin plan amendments do not become effective until approved by the State Board. The State Board may approve the amendment or remand to the Regional Board for reconsideration.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

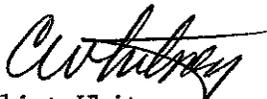
1. That the State Board approve the amendment to the basin plan which adds language to the "Policy on Oil Field Wastewater Disposal" on page I-5-49, as follows:

"The Regional Board may allow discharges of oil field wastewater that is in excess of maximum salinity limits to unlined sumps, stream channels, and surface waters where the discharger has demonstrated to the Board in public hearing that the proposed discharge will not substantially affect the water quality nor cause a violation of water quality objectives."

2. That the amendment allows exception on a case-by-case basis to established salinity limits for oil field wastewater discharges to unlined sumps (page I-5-49) and also for oil field wastewater discharges to surface waters or stream channels (page I-5-37).

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control 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 July 21, 1983.


Clint Whitney
Executive Director