

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 78- 35

DIRECTING THE DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS TO COMMENCE AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEGRADATION OF THE OXNARD PLAIN GROUNDWATER BASIN IN VENTURA COUNTY DUE TO SEAWATER INTRUSION

WHEREAS:

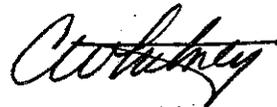
1. The Oxnard Plain Ground Water Basin in Ventura County produces a major portion of the total water supply for the county.
2. Farmers in the county have used this water to develop an important agricultural economy based upon lemons, strawberries and truck crops.
3. Substantial amounts of ground water are also pumped for municipal and industrial purposes.
4. Due to extensive pumping of this water, seawater has infiltrated the basin almost continually over the past 27 years, and now underlies more than twenty square miles of the basin.
5. Since the initial recognition of the seawater intrusion problem in 1951, local governmental entities have been unsuccessful in reaching agreement on a solution. The draft 208 Areawide Waste Treatment Plan for Ventura County, prepared by the Ventura Regional County Sanitation District, does propose measures for solving the problem. However, the plan does not contain specific direction on implementing the recommended solutions. In view of the long history of local disagreement over the proper means of dealing with the problem, it cannot be presumed that local entities will now be able to reach agreement and that the proposed measure will be implemented.
6. Water Code Section 2100 authorizes the Board, upon recommendation by the Department of Water Resources or in reliance upon investigation by any governmental agency, to commence an action in the Superior Court to restrict pumping, or to impose physical solutions, or both, to the extent necessary to prevent destruction of or irreparable injury to ground water quality. Water Code Section 2101 provides that before commencement of such an action, the Board shall first hold a hearing to determine the necessity of restricting pumping or imposing physical solutions.
7. Failure to take decisive action against the infiltration of seawater into the Oxnard Plain Basin will result in destruction of or irreparable injury to the quality of water contained therein, and seriously impair the usefulness of the basin as as reservoir for storage of fresh water.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the State Water Resources Control Board does direct and authorize the Division of Water Rights to assign a full-time engineer to the task of inquiring into the extent of the seawater intrusion problem in the Oxnard Plain Groundwater Basin, with special emphasis on the susceptibility of the problem to solution by means of restrictions on pumping, or imposition of physical solutions, or both.
2. That said engineer shall complete his inquiry and submit his report to the Board no later than December 31, 1978.
3. That said engineer will report to the Board in August of 1978 concerning the progress of local agencies, if any, towards controlling seawater intrusion.
4. That upon adoption of the engineer's findings in his report, and if said report so recommends, the Board will hold a hearing to receive testimony and other evidence for determination of the necessity of commencing an action in the Superior Court to restrict pumping, or to impose physical solutions, or both.

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 June 15, 1978.



Executive Director