

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
RESOLUTION NO. 83-9

APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SANTA ANA RIVER BASIN (8) PROHIBITING WASTE DISCHARGE FROM LEACHING/PERCOLATION SYSTEMS IN THE HOMELAND-GREEN ACRES AND ROMOLAND AREAS BY THE CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, SANTA ANA REGION

WHEREAS:

1. On April 11, 1975, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region, (Regional Board) adopted the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (8) (basin plan). This basin plan was approved by the State Board on April 17, 1975.
2. The Regional Board conducted a public hearing on September 17, 1982 regarding the adoption of an amendment to the basin plan to add a waste discharge prohibition for discharges from leaching/percolation systems for the Homeland-Green Acres and Romoland areas of Riverside County.
3. The record indicates that present hydrologic and geologic conditions cause leaching/percolation systems in the area described as Homeland-Green Acres to create a pollution or nuisance, affect water quality objectives, and impair beneficial uses of waters of the State. If these hydrologic and geologic conditions change as a result of improved flood control facilities, well-point pumping, or other measures, waste treatment systems using sub-surface disposal may function, at least in some portions of the prohibition area, without causing pollution, nuisance, or impairment of beneficial uses.
4. The record indicates that the continued discharge of waste from leaching/percolation systems in Romoland may continue to cause a nuisance and may affect water quality objectives and impair beneficial uses.
5. Further analysis is necessary to pinpoint the cause of septic tank pumpings, which indicate failures at excessive rates in Romoland. Failures may be caused by improper design, construction, or maintenance.
6. The discharge of waste from leaching/percolation systems which are not now discharging into the Homeland-Green Acres and Romoland areas should not be permitted unless evidence is presented that the discharge will neither create a nuisance, pollution, nor impair beneficial uses. The discharge of waste from leaching/percolation systems existing on September 17, 1982 should not be permitted after July 1, 1987 unless conditions causing the present nuisance, pollution, and impairment of beneficial uses are corrected.
7. State Board approval of the waste discharge prohibition does not constitute endorsement of any particular alternative to leaching/percolation systems in Romoland.

8. The establishing of an On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone for Romoland should be evaluated to correct the present problem with malfunctioning individual disposal systems. The use of engineered and unique disposal systems, such as "mounds", should also be considered.
9. At the public hearing on September 17, 1982, the Regional Board considered all testimony and evidence and adopted the environmental assessment and waste discharge prohibition "for the area shown on Exhibit A attached to Resolution No. 82-267".

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the State Board approves the amendment to the basin plan prohibiting the discharge of water from leaching/percolation systems (Chapter 5, Section D, Subsection 3 [pages 5-66 through 5-67]) for the Homeland-Green Acres and Romoland areas adopted September 17, 1982 by the Regional Board. The State Board encourages the Regional Board to assist the communities in developing and implementing cost-effective solutions to the problems due to waste discharge from subsurface leaching/percolation systems.
2. That the Regional Board is directed to submit, by September 1, 1983, a report on the progress made in selecting and implementing cost-effective solutions to the disposal problems described in the record of this matter.

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 January 20, 1983.



Clint Whitney  
Executive Director