

**PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 2003-0003-DWQ  
STATEWIDE GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (WDRs) FOR  
DISCHARGES TO LAND WITH A LOW THREAT TO WATER QUALITY**

**I. Project Location:**

These WDRs would be applicable throughout the State of California.

**Project Description:**

The project is the adoption of statewide General WDRs for discharges of waste to land with a low threat to water quality (General WDRs). The adoption of the proposed General WDRs would establish statewide WDRs for discharges to land that do not pose a significant threat to groundwater quality. Many of these low threat discharges have been regulated by waivers issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Boards). Pursuant to the requirements of Water Code Section 13269, all Regional Board waivers expired January 1, 2003 unless they were readopted by the Regional Boards.

Low threat discharges to land are defined, in general, as low volume discharges with pollutant concentrations that are less than the applicable Regional Board Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) groundwater quality objectives. Each Regional Board will have authority to determine the eligibility of specific discharges in its region. These proposed General WDRs do not apply to any discharge that directly or indirectly enters surface waters.

The proposed General WDRs would provide the Regional Boards with a better option to regulate certain low threat discharges, in addition to the establishment of waivers or individual WDRs. Better options are needed because waivers may provide insufficient review of these discharges and adopting individual WDRs for each low threat discharge is staff intensive and inefficient.

The following discharges to land will be eligible for regulation under the General WDRs: well development discharge, monitoring well purge water discharge<sup>1</sup>, boring waste discharge, water main/storage tank/hydrant flushing, pipeline/tank hydrostatic testing discharge, commercial and public swimming pool discharge, small temporary dewatering projects, small inert solid waste disposal operations, and cooling discharges.

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<sup>1</sup> Monitoring well purge water discharges are not required to be in compliance with Basin Plan objectives as long as the purge water is discharged to land at the monitoring well facility. If monitoring well purge water is discharged to the source groundwater, the discharge will not degrade groundwater quality and therefore would be considered a 'low threat' discharge.

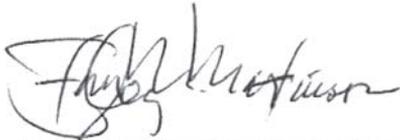
**II Findings:**

In accordance with State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) policies regarding the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, SWRCB has conducted an Initial Study to determine whether the following project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. On the basis of that study, SWRCB finds that the proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment and does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report because the project has or creates no significant environmental impacts requiring mitigation.

The environmental documents which constitute the Initial Study and Environmental Checklists that provide the basis and reasons for this determination are attached and hereby made a part of this document.

**III. Preparer:**

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5/9/03

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Date