CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER NO. 76-89

REVISION AND AMENDMENT OF THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN
SACRAMENTO RIVER BASIN (5A)
BY THE ADDITION OF A PROHIBITION OF WASTE DISCHARGE
FROM LEACHING AND PERCOLATION SYSTEMS WITHIN THE
COMMUNITIES OF CLEARLAKE HIGHLANDS AND CLEARLAKE PARK
LAKE COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, (hereafter Board), finds that:

1. The Board, on 25 July 1975, adopted a Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River Basin (5A).

2. The Plan contains areas where the discharge of waste from leaching and percolation systems is prohibited.

3. Clearlake Highlands and Clearlake Park are both within Improvement District No. 1 of the Lake County Sanitation District. Clearlake Park (Assessment District 1-5) is located on a steep and densely populated strip of land at the east end of Clear Lake. The portion of Clearlake Highlands being considered, known as Assessment District 1-4, is located southeast of Clearlake Park, primarily between Old Highway 53 and New Highway 53. Surface drainage is to Clear Lake.

4. The beneficial uses of Clear Lake and downstream waters are: domestic, municipal, agricultural, and industrial supply; recreation; esthetic enjoyment; navigation; and preservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and other aquatic resources.

5. The beneficial uses of the groundwater are domestic and agricultural supply.

6. Soils in these areas have either very low or marginal percolation rates which prevent proper operation of leach fields for sewage disposal.

   County Health Department records show that, since 1966, 73 individual septic system failures have been reported from these two areas (38 in Clearlake Highlands, 35 in Clearlake Park). In addition, one of the four contractors who install and repair septic systems in these areas, reports problems with 82 systems in Clearlake Highlands and 72 systems in Clearlake Park during the last 8 years. Approximately 61% of the problems involved frequent pumping and 39% were repairs to leach fields primarily because of impaired percolation. The repairs noted here are three times the number indicated by health department records.

COMMUNITIES OF CLEARLAKE HIGHLANDS AND CLEARLAKE PARK
LAKE COUNTY

7. In areas near the shoreline, septic systems are apparently contaminating wells and the lake itself. Samples of wells in the Clearlake Highlands area since 1960 have shown 31 to be contaminated (not all wells are tested). Samples taken in Clear Lake in 1964 and 1975 have shown a much greater concentration of total and fecal coliform at the shore near Clearlake Park.

8. The areas of concern are shown on the attached maps and lie within Improvement District No. 1 of the Lake County Sanitation District.

9. Continued installation and usage of leaching and percolation systems will increase the threat to public health and will further unreasonably impair water quality.

10. On 26 March 1976, in City Hall Council Chambers, 707 West Acequia, Visalia, California, after due public notice, the Board conducted a public hearing at which evidence was received concerning the discharge of wastes from individual sewage disposal systems in the communities of Clearlake Highlands and Clearlake Park.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The discharge of waste within the communities of Clearlake Highlands and Clearlake Park (Assessment District 1-4 and Assessment District 1-5), as delineated on the attached maps, from leaching or percolation systems installed after approval of this amendment by the State Water Resources Control Board is prohibited. An exemption to this prohibition may be granted by the Executive Officer after presentation by the proposed discharger of geologic and hydrologic evidence that leaching system disposal will not individually or collectively result in a pollution or nuisance.

2. The discharge of waste within the communities of Clearlake Highlands and Clearlake Park, as described herein, from leaching or percolation systems is prohibited after 1 March 1978. An exemption to this prohibition may be granted whenever the Board finds that the continued operation of individual sewage disposal systems in a particular area will not, individually or collectively, directly or indirectly, adversely affect water quality.

3. Chapter V of the Water Quality Control Plan is revised by the addition of this prohibition, upon approval of the State Water Resources Control Board.

I, JAMES A. ROBERTSON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 26 March 1976.

JAMES A. ROBERTSON, Executive Officer

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