



**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region**

Resolution No. R1-2008-0103

**Ballot Initiative to Reduce City of Rohnert Park's Current Sewer Services
Charges to Charges in Effect on January 1, 2006**

- Whereas,** On July 22, 2008 the City of Rohnert Park adopted a resolution directing that an *Initiative to Reduce City of Rohnert Park's Current Sewer Services Charges to Charges in Effect on January 2006* be on the ballot at the general election of November 4, 2008, and;
- Whereas,** This Board is responsible for ensuring that sewage is collected, treated and disposed of in a manner that is protective of water quality, public health and the environment, and;
- Whereas,** Rohnert Park collects fees from rate payers to fund the City's share of the Santa Rosa Subregional Water Reuse System and to maintain an adequate collection system, and;
- Whereas,** Rolling back rates, according to the *Report on the Impact of Initiative Measure to Reduce Rohnert Park Sewer Service Charges in Accordance with California Elections Code Section 9212 (The Report)* prepared by the City of Rohnert Park, will jeopardize the ability of the City to maintain a collection system that will prevent frequent and dangerous sewage spills within the community and into its creeks that drain to the Laguna de Santa Rosa and eventually to the Russian River, and;
- Whereas,** Rolling back rates, according to *The Report*, will jeopardize the ability of the City to maintain its financial obligation to the subregional system without cuts to other City services, and;
- Whereas,** The Board fully understands and supports the public's desire for cost savings and control over development activities in their communities, and;
- Whereas,** Enforcement, and fines against cities that spill sewage to waterways, particularly due to a failure to properly maintain facilities, provide adequate staffing, and plan and execute necessary upgrades, is a priority for this Board, and;
- Whereas,** This Board notes the recent proposed fine of \$1.6 million to the Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin for sewage spills resulting from alleged understaffing, inadequate equipment maintenance, and lack of proper expenditures to reliably operate a wastewater treatment plant;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board recognizes that the *Initiative to Reduce City of Rohnert Park's Current Sewer Services Charges to Charges in Effect on January 2006*, if approved by the voters, will result in a significant loss of revenue to the City of Rohnert Park, revenue legally directed at properly maintaining and operating its sewer collection system, and;

Be It Further Resolved, that the City of Rohnert Park is compelled to comply, without exception, with state and federal regulations applicable to the operation of its sewer collection system, and;

Be It Further Resolved, that the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board is committed to protecting the public from exposure to sewage spills in their community and to sewage releases into local creeks that lead to the Laguna de Santa Rosa and the Russian River and that discharges of untreated sewage from publicly owned treatment and collection systems to waters of the state are not tolerated, and will be met with enforcement actions and fines.

I, Catherine Kuhlman, Executive Officer,
do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full,
true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted
by the California Regional Water Quality
Control Board, North Coast Region,
on September 11, 2008.

Catherine Kuhlman
Executive Officer