

Benjamin D. Kor

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region

RESOLUTION NO. 86-148

AMENDING THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE NORTH  
COASTAL BASIN (1B) WITH RESPECT TO POINT SOURCE MEASURES  
BY THE ADDITION OF A LONG-RANGE ACTION PLAN FOR THE  
RUSSIAN RIVER

- WHEREAS, The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, adopted the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coastal Basin (1B) on March 20, 1975, and amended the plan periodically thereafter; the plans and amendments have been approved by the State Water Resources Control Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and
- WHEREAS, The Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coastal Basin (hereinafter Basin Plan) contains an Action Plan for the Santa Rosa area and waste discharge prohibitions for point source measures; and
- WHEREAS, The Regional Board identified the need to develop a long-range Action Plan for the Russian River during the 1985 triennial review of the Basin Plan; and
- WHEREAS, The City of Santa Rosa has declared that its goal is to eliminate its discharge of wastewater to the Russian River; and
- WHEREAS, The City of Santa Rosa is currently developing a long-range plan for the treatment and disposal of sewage; and
- WHEREAS, The City of Santa Rosa has requested the Regional Board to establish water quality objectives ("Standards") for each of five long-range alternatives; and
- WHEREAS, The Regional Board has determined that basic "standards" for the "ocean disposal" alternative and the "Geysers" alternative have already been promulgated by the State Water Resources Control Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Additional "standards" for the above alternatives may be incorporated into the City of Santa Rosa's NPDES permit by the Regional Board pending the completion of technical studies; and
- WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the San Francisco Bay Regional Board to establish "standards" for the "Bay disposal" alternative; and
- WHEREAS, The Regional Board has determined that "standards" proposed by the City of Santa Rosa for two alternatives involving discharges to the Russian River are inappropriate; and
- WHEREAS, Long-range "standards" for discharge to the Russian River must be incorporated into the Regional Board's Long-Range Action Plan for the Russian River Basin as guidance for the City of Santa Rosa and other municipal dischargers in the Russian River Basin; and
- WHEREAS, Current Regional Board policy mandates a minimum of secondary treatment for dischargers of municipal waste to the Russian River; and

- WHEREAS, On June 27, 1986, the Regional Board adopted an Interim Action Plan for the Santa Rosa area which mandates advanced wastewater treatment for most discharges of municipal waste to the Russian River by the City of Santa Rosa; and
- WHEREAS, The Regional Board has indicated its intent to continue to require higher treatment of municipal wastewater, as necessary, to protect the beneficial uses of the Russian River and its tributaries; and
- WHEREAS, The State Department of Health Services' Uniform Guidelines for Sewage Disinfection recommend that there should be no direct discharge of sewage effluent to streams used for domestic water supply; and
- WHEREAS, The said Uniform Guidelines for Sewage Disinfection allow exception to this standard where no other method of disposal is physically and economically possible; and
- WHEREAS, The State Department of Health Services recommends that all municipal wastewater discharged to streams used for domestic water supply be treated to a "pathogen free" level. "Pathogen free" effluent is that which has been treated to advanced levels including chemical flocculation, coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection; and
- WHEREAS, That zero discharge is a preferred alternative to advanced treatment where economically feasible and where environmentally superior, but the latter is the minimum acceptable; and
- WHEREAS, The Regional Board recognizes that improvements in municipal sewage treatment facilities require substantial capital expenditures and thus may require significant time periods for implementation; and
- WHEREAS, All other municipal discharges and potential municipal discharges to the Russian River or its tributaries have been notified of the Regional Board's intent to develop a long range protection plan for the Russian River.
- WHEREAS, The text of proposed Basin Plan amendments, the Executive Officer's report summarizing the basis for the amendments, and environmental documentation functionally equivalent to the California Environmental Quality Act requirements were transmitted to interested individuals and public agencies for review and comment; and
- WHEREAS, The Regional Board conducted a public hearing on August 28, 1986, and carefully considered all testimony and comments received on this matter. The Board has determined that the proposed Basin Plan amendments will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment.
- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Water Quality Control Plan and Abstract for the North Coastal Basin Plan (1B) be amended to add the following language under Section 3, Point Source Measures.

Add long-range action plan for the Russian River immediately following the Interim Action Plan (1986-1990) for the Russian River Basin (added language is underlined).

Long-Range Action Plan (post 1990) for the Russian River Basin:

The following Action Plan shall be implemented by 1990 or as soon thereafter as practicable as determined by the Regional Board.

1. There shall be no discharge of waste to the Russian River during the period of May 15 through September 30 each year.
2. There shall be no discharge of municipal waste to the Russian River during the period of October 1 through May 14 each year except as follows:
  - a. Only advanced treated wastewater\* shall be discharged.
  - b. Such discharges shall meet a median coliform level of 2.2 mpn/100 ml.
  - c. Such discharges shall be limited to one percent of the flow of receiving waters.\*\*

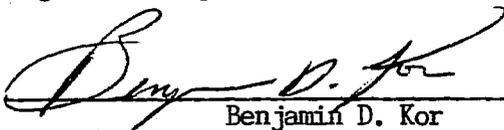
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\* Advanced treated wastewater shall be defined in effluent limitations contained in NPDES permits for each affected discharger.

\*\* With respect to the City of Santa Rosa Laguna Regional Treatment and disposal facilities, discharge shall not commence until after the flow of the Russian River initially reaches 1,000 cfs as measured at Guerneville (USGS Gage No. 11-4670.00) or until authorized by the Regional Board or its Executive Officer. Such authorization shall be based on evidence that justifies the necessity for the discharge and shows that all beneficial uses of the Russian River and its tributaries will continue to be protected.

Certification

I, Benjamin D. Kor, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, on August 28, 1986.



Benjamin D. Kor  
Executive Officer