

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
THE RESOURCES AGENCY
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

INTERIM
WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN
for the
CENTRAL COASTAL BASIN

JUNE 1971

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COASTAL REGION

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San Luis Obispo Coastal Sub-Basin

This sub-basin consists of that portion of San Luis Obispo County lying on the western slopes of the Santa Lucia Range, including a small portion of Monterey County, of the San Carpoforo Creek drainage area. The sub-basin comprises 788 square miles and extends from the northerly portion of San Luis Obispo County to the northern Santa Maria River drainage divide.

The sub-basin is generally mountainous and hilly with numerous small stream valleys and the more extensive valley and coastal plain area of Arroyo Grande Creek. Other major streams of the sub-basin are San Simeon, Santa Rosa and San Luis Obispo Creeks, Arroyo de la Cruz and Old Creek, all of which drain the western slopes of the Santa Lucia Range.

Surface and ground water quality in the sub-basin is generally acceptable for all uses with the exception of occasional high mineral content. Ground waters in the southern portion of the sub-basin exhibit high nitrate concentrations. Selected wells in the Baywood Park-Los Osos area also indicate high nitrate levels but otherwise, ground water in this portion of the sub-basin is of exceptional quality.

Water quality problems in the sub-basin are chiefly the result of domestic and agricultural waste disposal practices. Disposal of domestic waste water constitutes a threat to the quality of receiving waters. Although degree of treatment in marine discharges is rather high, treated wastes are discharged through outfalls that terminate in the nearshore waters in areas that receive very high order uses. Ground water impairment as a result of domestic waste discharges, particularly septic tank systems in unsewered areas, presents a water quality hazard. Disposal of agricultural wastes, particularly irrigation return water and animal wastes, are also sources of water quality impairment.

Seven municipal waste treatment facilities are located in the sub-basin. These are San Simeon Acres Community Services District, City of Morro Bay, which also serves the Cayucos Sanitary District, Avila Sanitary District, and the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District which serves the communities of Arroyo Grande, Oceano and Grover City. In addition, separate treatment and disposal facilities serve the Air Force Radar Station at Cambria, the Radar Station dependent housing area, California Men's Colony, and some private residential developments in Baywood Park and south of San Luis Obispo.

All of the treatment facilities mentioned above provide secondary treatment prior to discharge to receiving waters with the exception of the Avila Sanitary District which offers primary sedimentation before discharge and the Cambria Air Force Radar Station which utilizes a septic tank and ocean disposal. Coastal discharges in the sub-basin are to areas receiving a high order of water uses, including shellfish harvesting and water contact activities.

The major industrial waste discharge in this sub-basin is the cooling water from Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Morro Bay Power Plant. Treated oil tanker ballast water is discharged to the ocean from Standard Oil Company's Estero Bay facility. Oil field production waste from the Arroyo Grande Oil Field is discharged to Arroyo Grande Creek.

Soda Lake Sub-Basin

The Soda Lake Sub-Basin is a large, enclosed, arid basin located between the Temblor and Caliente Ranges, adjacent to the Upper Salinas River Sub-Basin. The area comprises 447 square miles and is separated from the Salinas Sub-Basin by a low drainage divide between the Temblor and La Panza Ranges. Elevations vary from about 1,900 feet above sea level at Soda Lake to 5,095 feet at Caliente Mountain. The basin floor lies at an elevation of about 2,000 feet.

Ground water occurs in alluvium and in the Paso Robles Formation, consisting of nonmarine sand, gravel and clay up to 1,000 feet thick. Runoff in streams tributary to Soda Lake is insignificant in amount and is disposed of naturally through evaporation. Water quality data indicate that surface and ground water in the sub-basin is somewhat mineralized but acceptable for most uses. The Carrizo Plain ground water basin is a closed basin and as a result, recycling of ground waters results in a mineralization problem.

Prohibition of Discharges

1. Due to the unique cultural, scenic, aesthetic, historical, scientific, or ecological value of areas within the basin, domestic waste discharges are prohibited in the following locations:
 - a. Monterey Bay, northern and southern extremes within the following areas: inshore from a line extending from Santa Cruz Point to the mouth of the Pajaro River; and inshore from a line extending from Point Pinos to the mouth of the Salinas River.
 - b. Carmel Bay, within 1000 feet from the Point Lobos Preserve of the State Department of Parks and Recreation, as recorded in 1970.
 - c. Tidal waters within 1000 feet of the coast and 100 foot depth contour, measured from mean low water. An exception to this prohibition may be allowed by the Board in prescribing waste discharge requirements after finding that all beneficial water uses will otherwise be protected.
2. In order to achieve water quality objectives, protect present and future beneficial water uses, protect public health and prevent nuisance, waste discharges are prohibited in the following locations:
 - a. All surface, fresh water impoundments and their immediate tributaries.
 - b. Water contact recreation areas located in fresh waters.
 - c. All surface waters within the San Lorenzo River, Aptos-Soquel, and San Antonio Creek Sub-Basins.
 - d. All coastal surface streams and natural drainageways that flow directly to the ocean within the Santa Cruz Coastal Sub-Basin, Monterey Coastal Sub-Basin, San Luis Obispo Coastal Sub-Basin from the Monterey County line to the northern boundary of San Luis Obispo Creek drainage and the Santa Barbara Coastal Sub-Basins.
 - e. In the Los Osos-Baywood area of San Luis Obispo County, specifically Section 13, 23 and 24 of T30SR10E and Sections 7, 17, 18, 19 and 20 of T30SR11E, MDB&M, after July 1, 1974 all proposed and existing waste discharges will be prohibited.
 - f. The Santa Maria River downstream from Highway 1 bridge, and
 - g. The Santa Ynez River downstream from the salt water barrier.
3. As further implementation of this plan to meet water quality objectives and protect beneficial uses, discharge of solid wastes are prohibited under the following conditions and/or in specific locations:
 - a. Any Class I solid waste material to any location other than a Class I solid waste disposal site.
 - b. Any Class II solid waste materials to any location other than Class I or II solid waste disposal sites.
 - c. Solid wastes shall not be discharged to rivers, streams, creeks, or any natural drainageways or flood plains of the foregoing.
4. To protect surface and ground water quality from degradation and to prevent nuisance conditions, such as discharge of improperly treated wastes to the land surface, the discharge from individual sewage disposal systems, including but not limited to septic tanks seepage pits, cesspools, pit privies, chemical toilets, etc., is prohibited: