

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

Order 87-21

Order Rescinding Cease and Desist Order 80-57, for the U.S. Navy Public Works Center, San Francisco Bay, et al., Novato, Marin County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (hereinafter the Board), finds that:

1. On November 4, 1980, the Board adopted Order No. 80-53 (NPDES CA00110248), waste discharge requirements for the treatment of sewage generated by the following residents of the former Hamilton Air Force Base, Marin County:
  - U.S. Navy Public Works Center, San Francisco Bay
  - U.S. Air Force
  - U.S. Army Reserve
  - U.S. Coast Guard
  - U.S. Department of State
  - U.S. General Services Administration
  - U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service
2. The treatment plant has an average dry weather flow of 0.2 MGD, and a design flow of 0.5 MGD. The plant discharges into San Pablo Bay, a water of the U.S. and the state. The 12" outfall discharges to the tidal mudflats of San Francisco Bay about 200 feet bayward from the levee separating the facility from the Bay. The discharge does not achieve an initial 10:1 dilution.
3. The Board adopted a revised water quality control plan for the San Francisco Basin (the Basin Plan) on July 21, 1982. The Basin Plan prohibits the discharge of wastewater with particular constituents of concern to beneficial uses into non-tidal waters, such as San Pablo Bay. San Pablo Bay has the following beneficial uses:
  - a. Navigation
  - b. water contact recreation
  - c. non-water contact recreation
  - d. commercial & sport fishing
  - e. wildlife habitat
  - f. fish migration and spawning
  - g. preservation of habitat for rare and endangered species
  - h. shellfishing harvesting
  - i. marine habitat

4. The Basin Plan prohibits the discharge of "(a)ny wastewater which has particular characteristics to beneficial uses at any point where the wastewater does not receive a minimum initial dilution of at least 10:1 or into any... confined water."
5. The Regional Board previously has determined that the area around the treatment plant is a confined body. The dischargers participated in the Eastern Marin- Southern Sonoma Subregional Study. This study undertook a comprehensive wastewater management facilities plan for the POTW's of Marin and Sonoma counties. The 1979 final EIR concluded that "the apparent best alternate project for the Hamilton A.F.B. involves the abandonment of the existing main base treatment plant and the improvement of the existing main base pumping station and the construction of a new intercepting force main to the Ignacio (Novato S.D.) Treatment Plant."
6. The Regional Board issued Cease and Desist Order 80-57 on November 4, 1980. This Order set up a time schedule for the construction of a new pump station, the new force main, and the abandonment of the treatment plant. Full compliance was to be achieved by July 1, 1983.
7. The pump station was finished in early 1985. Administrative difficulties developed between the U.S. Navy and the Novato Sanitary District, regarding ownership and maintenance of the new pump station and force main, which slowed the start-up.
8. The pump-station was started October 31, 1986. The treatment plant was abandoned on November 14, 1986. All aspects of Order 80-57 have now been complied with. A separate order is rescinding the waste discharge requirements.
9. This action to rescind an enforcement order is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act, pursuant to Section 15121 of the Resources Agency Guidelines.
10. On March 18, 1987, in a meeting starting at 9:30 A.M. in the Assembly Room of the State Building, 1111 Jackson St., Oakland, California, after due notice to the dischargers and all interested and affected persons and agencies, the Regional Board conducted a public hearing regarding this rescissions.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

This Regional Board's Enforcement Order No. 80-57 is rescinded.

I, Roger B. James, 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, San Francisco Bay Region, on March 18, 1987.

  
Roger B. James  
Executive Officer