

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 81-67

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE
AN INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
TO INTERPRET THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ELEVATED LEVELS OF TOXIC
SUBSTANCES IN MUSSELS

WHEREAS:


1. Provisions of PL 92-500 and of the Porter-Cologne Act require the State Board to establish and coordinate a statewide water quality surveillance and monitoring program to measure compliance with state and federal water quality standards.
2. In approving the revised "Ocean Plan", ~~the State Board resolved in Resolution No. 78-2, adopted January 19, 1978, that~~ "The Board hereby declares its intent to require continual monitoring of the marine environment to assure that the Plan reflects the latest available data and that the water quality objectives fully protect the marine environment".
3. Beginning in 1977, the Board approved the State Mussel Watch Marine Monitoring Program and has renewed the contract with the Department of Fish and Game for these services, the latest approval extending the contract until June 30, 1982.
4. State Mussel Watch Marine Monitoring Program has identified "hot spots" where elevated concentrations of toxic metals, pesticides, and petroleum hydrocarbons have been found. Three "hot spots" have been identified: San Diego Bay, Royal Palms (Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor), and San Francisco Bay.
5. The Biological Effects Assessment Study has established an inverse relationship between health of mussels and level of toxic substances in the waters. Less healthy mussels are found in areas identified as "hot spots".
6. The work proposed for the F. Y. 1981-82 Biological Effects Assessment Study will be to perform laboratory experiments to establish the relationship between elevated levels of specific toxic substances and the extent of their biological impairment on mussels.
7. Future work proposed for the Biological Effects Assessment Study will identify the sources of the most harmful substances and develop a regulatory strategy for the most harmful substances to assist the Board in its enforcement and standard-setting responsibilities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the State Board's Executive Director is hereby authorized to negotiate and execute an Interagency Agreement with the Department of Fish and Game for a period of one year to continue an investigation to interpret the effect of elevated levels of toxic substances in mussels in an amount not to exceed \$135,000.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on July 16, 1981.


Clint Whitney
Executive Director