

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
RESOLUTION NO. 86-76

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE NORTH COASTAL BASIN (1B) WITH RESPECT TO THE POINT SOURCE MEASURES, WASTE DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS FOR THE RUSSIAN RIVER, THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE SANTA ROSA AREA, AND ADDITION OF AN INTERIM ACTION PLAN FOR THE RUSSIAN RIVER

WHEREAS:

1. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coastal Region (North Coast Regional Board), adopted the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coastal Basin (Basin Plan) on March 20, 1975.
2. The Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coastal Basin (Basin Plan) contains an Action Plan for the Santa Rosa area and waste discharge prohibitions for point source measures.
3. Under the Basin Plan, waste discharges to the Russian River including those of the City of Santa Rosa, were prohibited during the period of October 1 through May 14 if they exceeded 1% of the river's flow.
4. The City of Santa Rosa has experienced difficulty in complying with this prohibition and also with a prohibition against discharge when winter flows in the Russian River are less than 1,000 cubic feet per second.
5. On December 5, 1985, the City of Santa Rosa requested the Regional Board to consider the approval of an Advanced Wastewater Treatment Contingency Plan and to modify the North Coastal Basin Water Quality Control Plan to allow implementation of the City's Contingency Plan on an interim basis.
6. The city's plan would allow, on a limited basis, the discharge of advanced treated waste water at rates in excess of 1% of the river's flow.
7. It is the intent of the North Coast Regional Board that the Laguna Sewage Wastewater Treatment Facility (Laguna Facility) be operated to minimize the number of occasions of discharge above 1% of the river's flow.
8. The record indicates that it was the intent of the Regional Board that dischargers other than the City of Santa Rosa would continue to be subject to the October 1-May 14 prohibition against discharging more than 1% of the receiving water's flow.

9. The language of the Basin Plan Amendment inadvertently removes the October 1-May 14 prohibition against discharges other than the City of Santa Rosa.
10. The amendment instead provides that discharges from the City of Santa Rosa shall not occur during the period October 1-May 14 if discharges of secondary treated wastewater meeting a median total coliform level of 23 MPN/100 ml from other discharges to the Russian River or its tributaries exceed 1% of the flow of the receiving waters.
11. Individual discharge permits for the other dischargers do contain provisions prohibiting discharges in excess of 1% of river flows during the period October 1-May 14.
12. The language of Section 2.b. of Regional Board Resolution No. 86-121 is ambiguous with regard to whether the 1% waste flow is determined on an individual or a cumulative basis.
13. Division 7 of the California Water Code specifies that basin plans be periodically reviewed and, if appropriate, revised.
14. On June 27, 1986, following a public hearing, the North Coast Regional Board adopted Resolution No. 86-121 amending its Basin Plan by revising the Waste Discharge Prohibition, Provision C, deleting reference to the Russian River and adding language defining an Interim Action Plan for the Russian River as stated in the attached Regional Board Resolution

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Basin (1B) as described in the North Coast Regional Board Resolution No. 86-121 adopted on June 27, 1986 be approved with the exception of Section 2.b of the amendment. Section 2.b. is returned to the Regional Board for the following:

- o The language prohibiting other discharges from exceeding one percent of the receiving water's flow shall be reinstated.
- o The language shall be rewritten to make clear that the one percent limit is determined on an individual discharger basis.

- o The Regional Board shall review and clarify its Basin Plan no later than April 1, 1987.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Administrative Assistant to the 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 October 14, 1986.

*Maureen Marche*

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Administrative Assistant to the Board