

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 92-82

APPROVAL OF AN EXCEPTION TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN
FOR CONTROL OF TEMPERATURE IN THE COASTAL AND
INTERSTATE WATERS AND ENCLOSED BAYS AND ESTUARIES
OF CALIFORNIA (THERMAL PLAN) FOR SACRAMENTO REGIONAL COUNTY
SANITATION DISTRICT (DISTRICT)

WHEREAS:

1. The District has a municipal wastewater discharge at an elevated temperature into the Sacramento River at Freeport in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Estuary).
2. Objective 5A(1)(b) of the Thermal Plan prohibits a waste discharge which causes more than a 1°F rise in more than 25 percent of the receiving water cross section at discharge locations in the Estuary.
3. The District requested an exception to Thermal Plan Specific Water Quality Objective 5A(1)(b).
4. An exception to the Thermal Plan can be granted by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) provided that a less stringent objective will assure the protection and propagation of balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife in and on the Sacramento River.
5. Under discharge conditions for the next five years, the heat load contributed by the District's effluent does not appear to pose a threat to aquatic life, including chinook salmon, at any season.
6. In Resolution 90-103, the State Water Board noted that projected increases in effluent volume will cause more frequent violations of Objective 5A(1)(b). At the times of the year that Sacramento River temperatures upstream of the discharge are 65°F or greater, the effects of increased discharge on aquatic life may become significant after five years, but cannot be predicted at present.
7. The District prepared a report that states that the surest option for attaining compliance with Objective 5A(1)(b) at river temperatures of 65°F and above is the addition of a second outfall diffuser. However, the District has not proposed to construct this diffuser at this time.
8. Other measures, including control of temperature from industrial sources and wastewater reclamation for irrigation or for creation of wetlands, can reduce but probably not eliminate violations of Objective 5A(1)(b). A staged

reclamation project, with first stage capacity estimated to be 3 million gallons per day, is under way and stage one should be in operation in 1995. A demonstration constructed wetland project using 1 million gallons per day is under way and construction should be complete in 1994.

9. The District has prepared a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) that has evaluated the potential impacts of the elevated temperature discharge on the beneficial uses and aquatic environment of the receiving water.
10. The State Board has reviewed and considered the District's SEIR and its finding that the proposed exceptions will not result in any significant environmental impacts, including impacts to migrant chinook salmon.
11. The State Water Board on October 8, 1992 held a hearing in Sacramento and considered all evidence concerning this matter. Based on available information, the exception should not result in any significant environmental impacts, including impacts to migrant chinook salmon.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The State Water Board grants an exception to Specific Water Quality Objective 5A(1)(b) of the Thermal Plan for the District's municipal wastewater discharge to the Sacramento River as follows: elevated temperature waste discharges, either individually or combined with other discharges, shall not create a zone, defined by water temperatures of more than 2°F above natural receiving water temperature which exceeds 25 percent of the cross-sectional area of the main river channel at any point.
2. Whenever the temperature of the Sacramento River upstream of the discharge is 65°F or higher, Objective 5A(1)(b) shall be exceeded no more than one hour per day as an average in any thirty-day period.
3. Whenever measurements indicate that the temperature of the Sacramento River upstream of the discharge is 65°F or higher, the District shall determine the fraction of each day that the discharge causes more than a 1°F rise in more than 25 percent of the receiving water cross section at the discharge location. The District shall report the results of such determinations each month to the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region.
4. The exception in paragraph one above expires five years from the effective date of this Resolution, after which time Thermal Plan Objective 5A(1)(b) applies to the discharge.
5. Upon expiration of the exception, the District shall report to the State Water Board the results of its temperature control program, including measures taken and the effectiveness of those measures.

6. The Executive Director shall transmit the decision on the exception request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, for approval.

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 22, 1992.


Maureen Marché
Administrative Assistant to the Board