

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

RESOLUTION NO. 77-72

EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER POTENTIAL ADVERSE
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FROM POTENTIALLY NOXIOUS
AQUATIC SPECIES THAT MAY BE INTRODUCED INTO THE
COLORADO RIVER FROM THE CHEMEHUEVI INDIAN TRIBE'S
PROPOSED SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

- WHEREAS, The Chemehuevi Indian Tribe has submitted information to the Regional Board indicating a desire to construct and operate a sewage treatment plant for the treatment of wastewater on the Chemehuevi Indian Reservation adjacent to the Colorado River; and
- WHEREAS, Information concerning the project submitted to the Board by the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe and by its consultants indicates that potentially noxious aquatic species will be utilized within the treatment system; and
- WHEREAS, The Colorado River and its lakes and backwaters are beneficially used for domestic, agricultural and industrial water supplies, freshwater wildlife habitat, recreation, and hydroelectric power generations; and
- WHEREAS, The introduction or escape of potentially noxious aquatic species into the Colorado River could adversely impact the beneficial uses of the Colorado River and its lakes and backwaters, and could increase the consumptive water use; and
- WHEREAS, This Board's Regional Agricultural Water Quality Advisory Committee, at its meeting on June 29, 1977, reviewed available information concerning the proposed project and recommended that its expression of opposition to the use of potentially noxious aquatic species, be directed to the Regional Board; and
- WHEREAS, This Board's Regional Policy Advisory Committee at its meeting on June 30, 1977, reviewed available information concerning the proposed project and unanimously recommended that formal action be taken opposing the use of potentially noxious aquatic species near the Colorado River; and

*Cancelled
9/20/89*

WHEREAS, The Imperial Dam Advisory Board, the Coachella Valley County Water District, the Imperial Irrigation District, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District, and the Arizona Water Commission, have adopted resolutions and/or submitted letters opposing the utilization of water hyacinths as a sewage treatment process, and have requested that an environmental evaluation of the proposal be made; and have directed these expressions to this Regional Board, to the State Water Resources Control Board, and to other interested agencies; and

WHEREAS, An environmental assessment prepared by the Chemehuevi Tribe's consultants, concluded that the project will result in no significant adverse environmental effects outside of the immediate area of the treatment plant, but did not address potential environmental impacts that may result from introduction of potentially noxious aquatic species into the Colorado River; and

WHEREAS, No Environmental Impact Report or Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared and reviewed for the proposed project; now, therefore be it

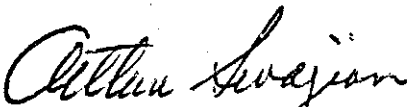
RESOLVED, That the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, expresses its concern over adverse environmental impacts that may result from the use of potentially noxious aquatic species that could escape or otherwise be introduced into the Colorado River from the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe's proposed sewage treatment plant; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Regional Board requests of the United States Economic Development Administration, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the State Water Resources Control Board that consideration of funding of the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe's proposed sewage treatment plant include the development of an environmental study and report, and that copies of the report be forwarded to all interested agencies and persons, with at least 30 days time for review and comment; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Regional Board offers the services of its Executive Officer to work with other interested agencies and persons towards an adequate resolution of this water quality problem; and be it further

RESOLVED, That certified copies of this Board's resolution be forwarded to the United States Economic Development Administration, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the State Water Resources Control Board, the Chemehuevi Tribal Council, to other interested agencies and persons, and to others who may request same.

I, Arthur Swajian, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on July 13, 1977.


Executive Officer