

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

RESOLUTION NO. R5-2007-0029

APPROVING AND ACCEPTING
THE COUNTY OF KERN'S
DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL WATER POLLUTION
AND A
TIME SCHEDULE FOR COMPLIANCE
FOR
THE METTLER COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
KERN COUNTY

WHEREAS:

1. The California State Water Resources Control Board requires regional water quality control boards to provide recommendations for Small Community Grant Project priorities.
2. The Mettler County Water District, Kern County, consists of 39 occupied properties, where at least 30 of the occupied properties have a failing septic system or grey water disposal to above ground disposal or both problems. The Kern County Environmental Health Services Department received a petition from the residents with properties located within the Mettler County Water District.
3. The Mettler County Water District reports nitrate concentrations above the Maximum Contaminant Level of 45 mg/L in groundwater, indicating an existing pollution problem which has potential for an increase in extent and magnitude of pollution with continued reliance on the existing septic tanks.
4. The Mettler County Water District had two domestic wells in the 1990s with nitrates above the Drinking Water Standard, requiring replacement with a deeper well.
5. The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin, Second Edition*, (hereafter Basin Plan) designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation plans and policies for protecting all waters of the Basin.
6. Surface water drainage from Mettler is in the Arvin-Wheeler Ridge Hydrologic Area of the South Valley Floor Hydrologic Unit (557.30) for which the Basin Plan designates surface water beneficial uses for Valley Floor Waters, including Agricultural Supply, Industrial Service Supply, Industrial Process Supply, Water Contact and Non-Contact Water Recreation; Warm Fresh Water Habitat; Wildlife Habitat, Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species, and Groundwater Recharge.
7. Groundwater underlying Mettler is in Detailed Analysis Unit 261 of the Kern County Basin for which the Basin Plan designates groundwater beneficial uses, including Municipal and Domestic Supply, Agricultural Supply, and Industrial Service Supply.

8. On 5 February 2007, the Kern County Environmental Health Services Department signed a letter declaring a potential pollution problem in the community of Mettler.
9. The County of Kern proposes to remedy the situation and has a time schedule for compliance to mitigate the potential problem, but needs funding assistance and requests to be placed on the Small Community Grant Project priority list for planning; design; and construction of sewage collection, treatment, and disposal facilities.
10. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, has reviewed the declaration of a potential pollution problem and time schedule for compliance.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region:

1. Approves and accepts the County of Kern's declaration of a potential pollution problem and time schedule for compliance.
2. Recognizing the seriousness of the current situation, urges the State Water Resources Control Board to place the Mettler County Water District in Priority Class B for Small Community Grant Program funding in fiscal year 2006/2007.

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region on 16 March 2007.

PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer