

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

RESOLUTION NO. R5-2005-0125

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

WHEREAS, the California State Water Resources Control Board requires regional water quality control boards to provide recommendations for Small Community Grant Project priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Buttonwillow County Water District, Kern County, comprises 420 homes, several businesses and a school, that include Buttonwillow and additional areas one mile north and one mile west of the town's boundary; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, the population of Buttonwillow is 1,266 and the median household income is \$28,370, which is 59.7% (i.e., less than 80%) of the statewide median income of \$47,493; and

WHEREAS, based on definitions in the Small Community Grant Program Guidelines, the community of Buttonwillow is a "hardship small community;" and

WHEREAS, the District reports that its existing 48 year old wastewater treatment facility is currently at operating design capacity and suffers from very old and antiquated equipment, and;

WHEREAS, the District reports that unless it designs and constructs expanded and upgraded treatment processes, the above constraints will limit future connections and the District's ability to operate and maintain the wastewater treatment facility consistent with acceptable standards; and

WHEREAS, the Kern County Water Agency has sampled wells in the vicinity of Buttonwillow including a well influenced by the wastewater treatment facility where nitrates increased from 1.9 mg/L in March 1956 to a high of 96 mg/L in August 1992, with an August 2004 sample of 55 mg/L; and

WHEREAS, nitrate concentrations above the Maximum Contaminant Level of 45 mg/L in groundwater indicate an existing pollution problem, which has potential for an increase in extent and magnitude of pollution with continued reliance on the existing wastewater treatment facility; and

WHEREAS, the Kern County Public Health Officer, through its deputy, the Kern County Health Services Department Director, declared on 27 July 2005 that these conditions create a potential pollution problem and proposed a time schedule to mitigate the potential pollution problem; and

WHEREAS, the District declared a potential pollution problem and proposes to remedy the situation in accordance with a proposed time schedule, but needs funding assistance and requests to be

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raised in priority from Class C to Class B on the Small Community Grant Project priority list for planning, design, and construction of a wastewater treatment facility expansion; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Board has reviewed the District's declaration of a potential pollution problem and its time schedule for compliance; and, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Regional Board approves and accepts the Buttonwillow County Water District's declaration of a potential pollution problem from the wastewater treatment facility northwest of Buttonwillow and its time schedule for mitigation; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Regional Board, recognizing the seriousness of the current situation, urges the State Water Resources Control Board to place the Buttonwillow County Water District in Priority Class B for Small Community Grant Program funding in fiscal year 2005/2006.

I, THOMAS R. PINKOS, 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 September 2005.

THOMAS R. PINKOS, Executive Officer

JEB/DKP: 9/16/05