

State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
December 10, 2008

- ITEM: 9
- SUBJECT: Mitigated Negative Declaration for General Waste Discharge Requirements for Existing Dairy Animal Feeding Operations in the San Diego Region (tentative Resolution No. R9-2008-0129) (Cathryn Henning)
- PURPOSE: Consider adoption of tentative Resolution No. R9-2008-0129, certifying that the Regional Board has complied with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project.
- PUBLIC NOTICE: The public was notified of this agenda item by posting the tentative Resolution on the Regional Board web page with an announcement on the home web page. An announcement was mailed to existing dairies on November 5, 2008. Notification of this action was published by the State Clearinghouse on November 6, 2008. In addition, a public notice was issued in the San Diego Union Tribune and the North County Times on November 5, 2008 (Supporting Document No. 1), in compliance with section 15072 of the State CEQA Guidelines.
- DISCUSSION: The Regional Board is considering adoption of General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the discharge of manure and process wastewater to land from eight existing dairy animal feeding operations (Item No. 10 on the Agenda). The dairy locations are shown on Supporting Document No. 2. Because no local agencies need to take a discretionary action on the project, the Regional Board must act as the lead agency under CEQA and is responsible for preparation of environmental documents and for evaluating environmental impacts of the project.
- On November 5, 2008, an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (Supporting Document No. 3) were completed and made available to the public, evaluating various environmental factors that could potentially be affected by the project. The Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration support a determination that the

adoption of General WDRs for the eight existing dairies will not have a significant impact on the environment, provided that:

1. Manure and process wastewater systems are designed, operated, and maintained in accordance with WDRs and State Regulations; and
2. The use of process wastewater for landscape irrigation and the use of manure for soil amendments will be required to be conducted in a manner that minimizes impacts to groundwater and complies with all local ordinances.

No comments on the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration have been received as of November 20, 2008.

Tentative Resolution No. R9-2008-0129 (Supporting Document No. 4) adopts the Mitigated Negative Declaration and certifies that it reflects proper assessment of environmental impacts of the General WDRs for existing dairies in the region.

KEY ISSUES:

General WDRs for this project (tentative Order No. R9-2008-0130) cannot be adopted before the adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration by tentative Resolution No. R9-2008-0129.

LEGAL CONCERNS:

None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Newspaper public notices for consideration of adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration
2. Location of Dairy Animal Feeding Operations in the San Diego Region
3. Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study
4. Tentative Resolution No. R9-2008-0129

RECOMMENDATION:

Regional Board staff recommends adoption of tentative Resolution No. R9-2008-0129.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT NO. 1

Newspaper public notice for consideration
of adoption of the Mitigated Negative
Declaration

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT NO. 2

Location of Dairy Animal Feeding
Operations in the San Diego Region

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT NO. 3

Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and
Initial Study

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT NO. 4

Tentative Resolution No. R9-2008-0129