

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

RESOLUTION NO. 599

STATING THE POLICY OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD RELATIVE TO WAIVING OF REPORTS ON WASTE DISCHARGE FROM FAMILY DWELLINGS IN AREAS WHERE THE DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE IS REGULATED BY THE SONOMA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

- I. WHEREAS, Section 13054 California Water Code provides that, "The reporting of a discharge of sewage from family dwellings in any area may be waived by the regional board"; and
- II. WHEREAS, there is need for this Regional Board to express its policy with regard to the waiving of reports on waste discharge from family dwellings within Sonoma County; and
- III. WHEREAS,
  - A. Sonoma County has an ordinance requiring that plans for septic tank installations be approved by the County Health Officer before construction of such installations is permitted;
  - B. In the cities of Sonoma and Petaluma, both of which are under the Sonoma County Health Officer's jurisdiction, the installation of septic systems requires approval by the County Health Officer, and such approval is based on the same codes and standards as apply in unincorporated areas of Sonoma County;
  - C. Those portions of Sanitary Districts lying in unincorporated areas are automatically subject to the same ordinance; and
- IV. WHEREAS, experience of the staff of this Board shows that:
  - A. The use of septic tanks and leaching systems is, with few exceptions, a temporary solution to sewage disposal problems;
  - B. Because of their temporary nature the installation of septic tanks and subsequent replacement with sewers is more expensive than construction of sewers at the outset; now
- V. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Regional Board urges that all responsible legislative and planning bodies in Sonoma County and the County Health Department:
  - A. Require connection to public sewers as a condition of development of any subdivision;
  - B. Investigate the feasibility of connection to public sewers prior to approval of any septic tank permits;
  - C. Deny septic tank permits where connection to a public sewer is feasible in the opinion of the County Health Officer;
  - D. Deny septic tank permits where substrata in the opinion of the health department official is not suitable for individual sewage disposal systems;

VI. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Regional Board hereby waives the reporting of discharges of sewage from family dwellings in any area where the disposal of sewage is regulated by the Sonoma County Department of Public Health by means of permits and that this waiver is subject to the following conditions and restrictions:

- A. The sewage is to be disposed of entirely through systems approved by the County Health Department and complying with this Board's Resolution No. 81;
- B. "Family dwelling", for the purpose of this resolution, includes rest room and kitchen facilities serving:
  - 1. Restaurants
  - 2. Service stations
  - 3. Stores
  - 4. Offices
  - 5. Beaches and Parks
  - 6. Trailer camps
  - 7. Motels
  - 8. Apartments
  - 9. Schools
  - 10. Churches;
- C. The sewage does not contain any industrial waste and does not originate at a manufacturing or processing plant site;
- D. That no disposal facilities shall be permitted where the City or District has adopted an ordinance compelling sewer connection and the public sewer is available in accordance with the terms of the ordinance;
- E. That the County Health Officer advise the Regional Board at the earliest possible date of all proposals to use septic tanks in new sub-divisions for the disposal of sewage;
- F. That this waiver does not apply whenever the County Health Officer believes that a Report on Waste Discharge should be filed with the Regional Board;

VII. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this waiver becomes effective upon adoption of this Resolution and that the Regional Board reserves the right to review and amend the waiver at any time.

GRANT BURTON  
Chairman

September 17, 1964

I, John B. Harrison, hereby certify the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 599, as adopted by the Regional Water Pollution Control Board of Region No. 2 at its regular meeting on September 17, 1964.

JOHN B. HARRISON  
Executive Officer  
REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD NO. 2

FHD/RBJ/smj