

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

RESOLUTION NO. 70-65

POLICY STATEMENT WITH RESPECT TO WASTE DISCHARGES
FROM VESSELS TO TIDAL WATERS OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY

WHEREAS THIS REGIONAL BOARD HAS CONSIDERED

1. It is estimated that 80 million gallons of untreated sewage are discharged annually to San Francisco Bay by commercial, public and pleasure vessels.
2. The most positive control of wastes from watercraft and most effective means of preventing pollution is to provide for the disposal of waste to shoreside sewerage facilities by use of holding tanks and/or connection to dockside sewers.
3. This Regional Board in its water quality control plan for San Francisco Bay stated its intent to protect the public health related to the use of the waters for recreational purposes. That plan has been approved by both the State Water Resources Control Board and conditionally approved by the Secretary of the Interior.
4. This Board has implemented that plan by requiring all shoreside dischargers of sewage to adequately disinfect their wastes and has instituted formal enforcement proceedings against many of these dischargers to gain compliance.
5. The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission in its "San Francisco Bay Plan" stated its policy that "Water quality in all parts of the Bay should be sufficiently high to permit water contact sports and to provide a suitable habitat for all indigenous and desirable forms of aquatic life". This Regional Board has urged the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission to require dockside sewers and pump-out facilities to receive wastes from all vessels.
6. The State Water Resources Control Board is investigating the water quality problems caused by the discharge of waste from watercraft and is drafting regulatory legislation for consideration during the 1971 Legislative Session.
7. This Regional Board has requested the Federal Government to regulate the discharge of sewage to San Francisco Bay from vessels under the jurisdiction of foreign nations and the United States Government.
8. Section 13 of the Federal Water Quality Control Act provides that:

"... the Secretary ... shall promulgate Federal standards of performance for marine sanitation devices ... which shall be designed to prevent the discharge of untreated or inadequately treated sewage ...".

"Upon application by a State, and where the Secretary determines that any applicable water quality standards require such a prohibition, he shall by regulation completely prohibit the discharge from a vessel of any sewage (whether treated or not) into those waters of such State which are subject of the application and to which such standards apply."

"The provisions of this section and the standards and regulations promulgated hereunder apply to vessels owned and operated by the United States unless the Secretary of Defense finds that compliance would not be in the interest of national security."

RESOLVED BY THIS REGIONAL BOARD

1. This Board hereby finds that sewage and other waste waters discharged from vessels cause nuisance, pollution and hazards to public health.
2. This Regional Board strongly recommends that all owners of berthing facilities and marinas provide dockside sewerage facilities to receive wastes from vessels and that all owners and operators of vessels with sanitary facilities install holding tanks and connections for discharging wastes to shore-side sewers.
3. This Regional Board believes it is imperative that the State Water Resources Control Board request the Secretary(ies) of the appropriate Federal department(s) to
 - a. Prohibit all waste discharges from private and public vessels to waters of San Francisco Bay.
 - b. Require holding tanks on said vessels for the containment of wastes and connections for discharge of these vessels to shore-side sewers.
4. This Regional Board also believes it is imperative that the State Water Resources Control Board request the Legislature to adopt, during its 1971 session, legislation which will require waste holding tanks on all vessels with sanitary facilities and shore-side connections and pump-out facilities for pumping these wastes to sewerage facilities.

3. This Board intends to consider the prohibition of discharges of wastes from vessels in the amendment of its water quality control plans.
6. This Regional Board recognizes the need for tight yet reasonable time schedules for implementing this policy and strongly recommends that all concerned persons work diligently to develop such schedules.

WILLIAM C. MYER
Chairman

August 27, 1970

I, Fred M. Dierker, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 70-63 adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region at its regular meeting on August 27, 1970.



FRED M. DIERKER
Executive Officer
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL
BOARD, SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION