

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 73-55

RESPONDING TO REQUEST FOR EXCEPTIONS TO THE WATER
QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR CONTROL OF TEMPERATURE
IN THE COASTAL AND INTERSTATE WATERS AND ENCLOSED
BAYS AND ESTUARIES OF CALIFORNIA FOR ENCINA POWER
PLANT, UNIT 5

WHEREAS:

1. The San Diego Gas & Electric Company has requested exceptions to Specific Water Quality Objectives 3.B.(1) and (4) of the Water Quality Control Plan for Control of Temperature in the Coastal and Interstate Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California (Thermal Plan) for the discharge from Unit 5 of the Encina Power Plant.
2. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region, held a public hearing on July 9, 1973, to consider the request for exceptions.
3. On the basis of the record obtained at the hearing, the Regional Board adopted Resolution 73-29 recommending that the exceptions be granted and that the State Board and the Environmental Protection Agency concur in granting the exceptions.
4. The State Water Resources Control Board has reviewed the record of the public hearing, and finds as follows:

FINDINGS:

1. The discharge from Unit 5 will be a "new discharge" as defined in the Thermal Plan whereas the discharges from Units 1 through 4 are "existing discharges". The Thermal Plan provides different water quality objectives for existing and new discharges to coastal waters and the standards for authorizing exceptions are also different.
2. Units 1 through 3 have been in operation for several years but Unit 4 has only been operated intermittently and will not be fully operational until next year. Therefore, the effect of full operation of Units 1 through 4 upon the aquatic environment has not yet been determined, nor is it known what effect the addition of Unit 5 will produce.
3. The impact on the aquatic environment of the proposed discharge from Unit 5 should not be considered independently of the discharges from Units 1 through 4 which may have an equal or greater effect.

4. The Thermal Plan does not clearly delineate procedures for considering exceptions to the specific water quality objectives for a combined existing and new discharge or for a new discharge where the impact of an existing discharge is not yet known.
5. The evidence at hand related to the ecological and other physical factors involved in the particular stretch of the California coast containing the Encina project make it impossible to state with finality at this time the overall effect that construction and operation of a deep ocean outfall would have on the aquatic environment as compared with the effects of other alternatives.
6. Because of lack of information, the State Board is unable to take final action at this time regarding proposed exceptions to Sections 3.B.(1) and 3.B.(4) of the Specific Water Quality Objectives of the Thermal Plan as recommended by the Regional Board.
7. The State Board recognizes the need to proceed with the design and construction of the proposed Unit 5 without further delay.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The discharger should proceed with the design of Unit 5 such that cooling water from the entire Encina complex, Units 1 through 5, may be directed to an ocean outfall if an outfall later is found to be necessary. If, at the time construction is to begin, the question of exceptions to the Thermal Plan has not been resolved, the discharger should proceed with construction of in-plant and shoreside works such that cooling water from Units 4 and 5 and, if feasible, the entire Encina complex, may be directed to an ocean outfall if an outfall later is found to be necessary.
2. The Regional Board shall submit to the State Board for approval at the earliest possible time the following: (A) draft waste discharge requirements for Encina Unit 5, including a monitoring program to measure the effects of discharges from the Encina complex into near shore waters. The waste discharge requirements shall specify procedures by which monitoring data will be used to determine the necessity for and capacity of an ocean outfall; and (B) draft alternate or modified water quality objectives for the receiving waters which will assure full protection or enhancement of the aquatic environment considering the ultimate capacity of Units 1 through 5, as required by Section 3.B.(4) paragraph 2 of the Specific Water Quality Objectives and Sections 4.A, 4.C, and 4.D of the General Water Quality Provisions of the Thermal Plan.

Resolution No. 73-55

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Executive Officer of the State Water Resources Control Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on December 20, 1973.

Bill B. Dendy

Bill B. Dendy
Executive Officer