

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
RESOLUTION 90-103

APPROVAL OF ONE EXCEPTION AND DEFERRAL OF A DECISION ON A SECOND  
EXCEPTION TO 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 SACRAMENTO REGIONAL  
COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT

WHEREAS:

1. Objective 5A(1), Water Quality Control Plan for the Control of Temperatures in the Coastal and Interstate Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California (Thermal Plan) prohibits: (a) a waste discharge to estuaries that exceeds the natural receiving water temperature by more than 20°F; and (b) a waste discharge which causes more than a 1°F rise in more than 25 percent of the receiving water cross section at the discharge location.
2. The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (District) has a discharge of an elevated temperature municipal wastewater into the Sacramento River at a location in the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary.
3. The District requested an exception to Thermal Plan Specific Water Quality Objective 5A(1)(a) from 1 October through 30 April and an exception to Specific Water Quality Objective 5A(1)(b) throughout the entire year.
4. The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, has recommended approval of the exception.
5. An exception to the Thermal Plan can be granted by the State Board provided that less stringent objectives will assure the protection and propagation of a balanced, indigenous population of shellfish, fish and wildlife in and on the Sacramento River.
6. The District has prepared a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) that has evaluated the potential impacts of the elevated temperature discharge on the beneficial uses and aquatic environment of the receiving water.
7. The State Board has reviewed and considered the District's SEIR and its finding that the proposed exceptions will not result in any significant environmental impacts, including impacts to migrant chinook salmon.
8. Projected increases in the volume of waste requiring treatment by the District will probably renew or exacerbate problems concerning compliance with the Thermal Plan.

9. The State Board on September 5, 1990 held a hearing in Sacramento and considered all evidence concerning this matter.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the State Board grants an exception to Specific Water Quality Objective 5A(1)(a) of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Control of Temperature in the Coastal and Interstate Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California for the District's municipal wastewater discharge into the Sacramento River as follows: In the period of 1 October through 30 April, the discharge temperature shall not exceed natural receiving water temperature by more than 25°F.
2. That the State Board defers a decision on an exception to Water Quality 5A(1)(b) of the Thermal Plan, pending completion of an evaluation by the District of the feasibility of alternative methods to reduce the heat load of its discharge of effluent to the Sacramento River. Methods to be evaluated include, at a minimum, water conservation, wastewater reclamation, and expansion of the capacity of on-site emergency storage basins.
3. That six months from the effective date of this order, the District shall submit to the State Board a progress report on control options, and six months later, a final report that identifies the most feasible options for attaining compliance with Thermal Plan objective 5A(1)(b), and the costs and expected effectiveness of such options.
4. That the State Board directs the Executive Director or a designee to transmit the decision on the exception request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, for approval.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Administrative Assistant to the 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 September 20, 1990.

  
Maureen Marche  
Administrative Assistant to the Board