

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
RESOLUTION NO. 91-9

APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY  
CONTROL PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL COAST BASIN  
PROVIDING A WAIVER TO THE MONTEREY BAY  
PROHIBITION ZONE FOR DISCHARGES FROM  
DESALINIZATION AND CIRCULATING SEAWATER SYSTEMS

WHEREAS:

1. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (Central Coast Regional Board), adopted the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coast Basin (Basin Plan) on March 14, 1975.
2. Division 7 of the Water Code specifies that basin plans be periodically reviewed and, if appropriate, revised.
3. On September 14, 1990, following a public hearing, the Central Coast Regional Board adopted Resolution No. 90-05 (Attachment) amending the Basin Plan to add on page V-9 under "Waters Subject to Tidal Action":  

"Discharges to the Monterey Bay Prohibition Zone from desalinization units and circulating seawater system discharges may be permitted after each proposal satisfies California Environmental Quality Act Requirements and completes the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System process."
4. The Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge and Hopkins Marine Life Refuge Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) is located within the Monterey Bay Prohibition Zone, and point source discharges to the ASBS continue to be prohibited unless a specific exception is approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board), pursuant to the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California (Ocean Plan).
5. The Central Coast Regional Board prepared documents and followed procedures satisfying environmental documentation requirements in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.).
6. The Central Coast Regional Board Resolution No. 90-05 was adopted in accordance with State laws and regulations.
7. Basin Plan amendments do not become effective until approved by the State Board.

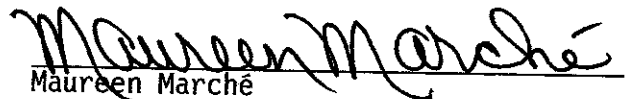
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the State Board:

1. Approves the Basin Plan amendment adopted by Central Coast Regional Board Resolution No. 90-05 on September 14, 1990 with the condition that any discharge to the ASBS is prohibited unless an exception to the Ocean Plan is approved by the State Board.
2. Directs staff to submit the Basin Plan amendment and this State Board Resolution to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 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 January 24, 1991.

  
Maureen Marché  
Administrative Assistant to the Board

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD**  
**CENTRAL COAST REGION**  
 1102 A Laurel Lane  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

**RESOLUTION NO. 90-05**

**Adopting Monterey Bay Desalinization Discharge Waiver  
 Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan  
 and Requesting Approval From the  
 State Water Resources Control Board**

**WHEREAS:**

1. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan) prohibits "waste discharges" into the northern and southern extremities of Monterey Bay (Prohibition Zone). (This prohibition is contained in the Plans and Policies Discharge Prohibitions section of the Basin Plan.)
2. The Prohibition Zone was established because sluggish circulation in the Bay's extremities caused waste parameters to accumulate. The zone was established to reduce accumulation of ammonia nitrogen and bacteria in the northern and southern corners of the Bay.
3. Desalinization discharges do not contribute the type of pollutants which are of concern in the Prohibition Zone.
4. Circulating seawater systems from aquariums and marine labs may contribute some pollutants of concern. However, these are generally of minor amounts and can be regulated through the NPDES process.
5. Sufficient regulatory mechanisms exist to protect Monterey Bay from desalinization and circulating seawater discharges.
6. A Basin Plan Amendment is necessary to allow desalinization and circulating seawater discharges in Monterey Bay.
7. Drafts of the proposed amendment have been prepared and distributed to interested persons and agencies for review and comment.
8. Regional Board staff has followed appropriate procedures to satisfy the environmental documentation requirements of both the California Environmental Quality Act, under Public Resources Code Section 21080.5 (Functional Equivalent) and Federal Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL 92-500 and PL 95217). The Regional Board finds adoption of this amendment will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment.
9. Due notice of public hearing was given by advertising in newspapers of general circulation within the Region.
10. On September 14, 1990 in the Seaside City Council Chambers, 440 Harcourt Avenue, Seaside, California after due public notice, the Regional Board received evidence and considered all factors concerning the proposed revisions and amendments to the Plan.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. The Basin Plan for the Central Coast Region be amended as follows on Page V-9 under "Waters Subject to Tidal Action" but before "Areas of Special Biological Significance" (November or July, 1989 draft):