

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 95-43

ACCEPTANCE OF THE CALIFORNIA RANGELAND WATER QUALITY
MANAGEMENT PLAN AS FULFILLING THE CONTRACT WITH THE
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

WHEREAS:

1. The State Board of Forestry (BOF) is the State agency concerned with rangeland, as part of its responsibilities related to timber management and improvement and fire prevention and protection.
2. The Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) was established by law to advise the BOF on range management.
3. The BOF adopted an initiative directing the RMAC to address the issue of managing rangeland riparian areas on nonfederal lands.
4. The RMAC decided to include the broader issue of water quality management on nonirrigated rangeland.
5. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), using federal Clean Water Act Section 319(h) funds, contracted with the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) to develop a proposed Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan (Rangeland Plan).
6. The CARCD subcontracted with Advocate, Inc., to facilitate the development of the Rangeland Plan.
7. A broad-interest-based advisory committee was formed to address technical and policy issues.
8. The proposed Rangeland Plan represents a voluntary/cooperative approach to rangeland water quality management and corresponds to Tier One of the Nonpoint Source Management Plan (NPS Plan).
9. The proposed Rangeland Plan sets forth triggers which could move regulation of rangeland management into Tiers Two and/or Three.
10. The development of the Rangeland Plan was underway before the Coastal Zone Management Act requirements were promulgated, but the proposed Rangeland Plan was adapted to address these requirements.
11. The proposed Rangeland Plan is supported by other agencies and organizations including the grazing industry.

12. Based on initial support of some Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB), consideration should be given to commencing implementation of the Rangeland Plan on a pilot scale subject to RWQCBs' approval.
13. The BOF has requested the SWRCB to consider amending its NPS Plan with the Rangeland Plan.
14. The request by the BOF for the SWRCB to consider amending its NPS Plan is supported by other interested parties.
15. To provide continuing coordination and consistency between the rangeland management program on federal and nonfederal lands, staff should participate in the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's (USBLM) "Healthy Rangeland for All Uses" process currently underway.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The SWRCB:

1. Accepts the Rangeland Plan as fulfilling the contract with CARCD.
2. Approves implementation of the Rangeland Plan commencing on a pilot scale subject to RWQCB's approval.
3. Directs staff to evaluate amending the NPS Plan or State and/or Regional Water Quality Control Plans to incorporate the Rangeland Plan.
4. Directs staff to participate in the process currently underway by the USBLM for "Healthy Rangeland for All Uses."

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 July 20, 1995.


Maureen Marché
Administrative Assistant to the Board