

OSMA

State of California Department of Public Health

Memorandum

To : San Francisco Bay Region March 18, 1969
 Regional Water Quality Control Board
 364 14th Street
 Oakland, Calif. 94612

City of Petaluma
 Disinfection Requirements
 Sonoma County
 providing a submerged discharge

RECEIVED REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
 MAR 19 1969

From : Bureau of Sanitary Engineering

As you requested, we have the following comments and recommendations to make on the bacterial quality of the waste necessary to protect whole and limited-body water contact recreation in the receiving waters of Petaluma River.

As pointed out in the findings of our Bureau of Sanitary Engineering Report on Water Quality Survey of the Petaluma River dated June 1963, the Petaluma River is "used by recreational enthusiasts for swimming and water skiing from Petaluma to the mouth". Other uses of the River include sport fishing, commercial navigation, pleasure boating, industrial water supplies, and waste disposal. We expect the recreational uses of the River to increase in future years, as we understand the City of Petaluma plans to construct a large marina for small boats to be located about one mile below the point of sewage discharge.

The Bureau of Sanitary Engineering study above showed that the dilution ratio for the Petaluma sewage was in the neighborhood of 8 to 1. Since the study was made, the City constructed a new treatment plant and outfall sewer, providing a submerged discharge to the River. This change should provide better treatment and dispersion of the sewage effluent with the River water.

Considering the above cited beneficial uses, we recommend disinfection of the treated sewage effluent the year around.

Because the dilution of the effluent with the receiving waters is limited, we recommend the following disinfection criteria during the recreational season which extends from about April 1st to October 31st:

1. At some point in the treatment process the median MPN of coliform organism should not exceed 23/100ml.
2. The median value is to be determined from the results of the previous consecutive seven days for which analysis have been completed.
3. The samples for analysis should be collected at least daily and at a point close to the outfall and characterized by the following conditions:
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Bureau of Sanitary Engineering

During the remainder of the year, when upstream flow promises additional dilution and whole body contact is limited, we recommend the following disinfection criteria:

At some point in the treatment process the sewage be disinfected so as not to exceed the bacterial quality prescribed by State Regulations Relating to Ocean Water Contact Sports areas.

We are aware of the City's practice of bypassing raw sewage to the River during power failures of long duration and the overflow of raw sewage to the River during heavy rains. During and for some time after bypassing occurs, the public health of the River is such that for recreational purposes will not be protected. It is the responsibility of the City to take effective steps to correct this unsatisfactory condition.

The above has been discussed with the Sonoma County Public Health Service and they are in agreement.

H. J. Ongerth, Chief
Bureau of Sanitary Engineering

M. E. Stewart
M. E. Stewart
Supervising Sanitary Engineer

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MES:fms

cc: Sonoma County PHS, Santa Rosa
Department of Fish & Game, San Francisco
Department of Fish & Game, Sacramento
Department of Water Resources, Sacramento
Bureau of Sanitary Engineering,
Santa Rosa
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