

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 75-91

CONCURRENCE WITH EXCEPTIONS TO
THE THERMAL PLAN FOR THE
FIBREBOARD CORPORATION
SAN JOAQUIN DIVISION PULP MILL

WHEREAS:

1. On May 18, 1972, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted a "Water Quality Plan for Control of Temperature in the Coastal and Interstate Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California", hereinafter called the Thermal Plan.
2. Fibreboard Corporation's San Joaquin Division Pulp Mill, hereinafter the discharger, currently discharges a maximum of 21 mgd of elevated temperature wastewater into the San Joaquin River two miles northeast of Antioch.
3. By letter dated November 28, 1973, the discharger has requested from the Regional Board an exception to Specific Water Quality Objective 5.A.(1)a of the Thermal Plan as quoted below:
 - "(1)a the maximum temperature shall not exceed the natural receiving water temperature by more than 20°F."
4. The Fibreboard Corporation has requested the Regional Board to grant the exceptions using as authority Section 4.C. and D. of the General Water Quality Provisions of the Thermal Plan, quoted below:
 - "4. An exception to the specific water quality objective of this plan may be authorized by a Regional Board for a specific discharge upon a finding following public hearing that:
 - "C. Changes in existing discharge structures or their operation to obtain compliance with water quality objectives would result in environmental impact greater than would occur with modified water quality objectives, or
 - "D. Compliance by existing discharge with specific water quality objectives would require modification of operation or facilities not commensurate with benefit to the aquatic environment."

5. After review of all pertinent data and testimony received at a public hearing, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board concluded that the existing discharge reasonably assures full protection of the aquatic environment, and that compliance with the maximum 20°F differential between waste discharge and receiving water at all times would require modification of operations or facilities not commensurate with benefit to the environment.
6. The Regional Board by Resolution No. 75-164 dated June 27, 1975, requested concurrence within an exception to Specific Water Quality Objective 5.A.(1)a of the Thermal Plan and proposed as an alternative that:

"The maximum effluent temperature differential limitation be raised from twenty (20) to sixty (60) degrees fahrenheit, and impose on the discharge at 105°F maximum."

7. The State Water Resources Control Board finds that alternative less stringent requirements proposed in Regional Board Order No. 75-164 will assure the protection and propagation of a balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife within the meaning of Section 316(a) of P.L. 92-500.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the State Water Resources Control Board concurs with Resolution No. 75-164 of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and finds that alternative less stringent requirements to the Thermal Plan recommended for Fibreboard's San Joaquin Division Pulp Mill will assure the protection and propagation of a balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife within the meaning of Section 316(a) of P.L. 92-500.

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
SEP 18 1975

Bill B. Dendy

Bill B. Dendy
Executive Officer