Nos. 73-13, 73-18, and 74-5 of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region Order No. WQ 74-11

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BY THE BOARD

On May 15, 1974, various property owners and residents of Stinson Beach, Marin County (Petitioners), through their attorney Michael E. Sanford petitioned the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to review and stay the effect of Resolutions Nos. 73-13, 73-18, and 74-5 of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (Regional Board).

Resolution 73-13 was adopted by the Regional Board on September 28, 1973, to amend the water quality control plan for the region, and provides, in part, that:

"The discharge of sewage-bearing wastewater to individual leaching or percolation systems in the Stinson Beach area of Marin County is prohibited for:

A. Any new system serving a property for which a building permit had not been issued prior to October 31, 1973.

B. Any and all such systems after October 15, 1977." The resolution also provides for a procedure whereby a discharger can request and receive an exemption to the prohibition.

Resolution 73-18, adopted November 27, 1973, amended Resolution 73-13 by redefining the boundaries of the area of prohibition.

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against all present and future property owners within the areas described in Resolution No. 73-13 for threatened violation of Resolutions No. 73-13 and No. 73-18.

2. Requests BASSA to conduct necessary public hearings and investigations and to make all necessary findings regarding BASSA's construction and operation of water quality control facilities in Stinson Beach and to report to this Regional Board by July 1, 1974, on such decision and actions.

With respect to Regional Board Resolutions 73-13 and 73-18 the petition must be denied since the review it asks is not authorized by law. Those resolutions amended a Regional Water Quality Control Plan which had been previously adopted by the Regional Board. Regional Water Quality Control Plans and revisions thereof adopted by a Regional Board are effective when approved by the State Board pursuant to Water Code Section 13245. The revisions adopted by Resolutions 73-13 and 73-18 were approved by the State Board on December 6, 1973. Therefore, these revisions have already been reviewed by the State Board and no further review is authorized. Water Code Section 13320, upon which petitioners apparently rely, specifies certain actions of the Regional Boards which the State Board is authorized to review, but adoption or revision of Regional Water Quality Control Plans are

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lution 74-5 must also be denied since it fails to raise substantial issues that are appropriate for review. A mere instruction to the Regional Board executive officer "to commence preparing for a hearing or hearings, as may be necessary, pursuant to Section 13301 of the California Water Code" is not an "action" within the meaning of Water Code Section 13320, which authorized the State Board to review any action by a Regional Board under certain enumerated portions of the Water Code, including Chapter 5 of Division 7. Section 13301 is in Chapter 5 and authorizes a Regional Board to issue a "cease and desist" order if the Board finds, after hearing, that a discharge of waste is taking place or threatening to take place in violation of requirements or discharge prohibitions prescribed by the Regional Board. Issuance of such an order would be an "action" under Chapter 5, not merely such staff preparation, "as may be necessary", for a hearing.

The Regional Board's request to BASSA, an independent agency, to initiate steps preliminary to possibly exercising its authority to construct and operate water quality facilities in Stinson Beach, is not an "action" under any of the portions of the Water Code ennumerated in Section 13320 and therefore is not reviewable by the State Board.

## THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The petition of property owners and residents of Stinson Beach, Marin County, for review of Resolutions Nos. 73-13,

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Dated: JUL 18 1974

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Chairman

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See Concurring Opinion Ronald B. Robie, Vice Chairman

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Nos. 73-13, 73-18, and 74-5 of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region

Order No. WQ 74-11

## CONCURRING OPINION OF BOARD VICE CHAIRMAN ROBIE

While I concur in the Board's order denying this petition without discussion of the merits of the petition, discussion of an allegation of the petitioner that notice of the regional board's proposed action in adopting Resolution No. 73-13 was defective is in order. In my opinion the notice by the regional board was legal and proper. Water Code Section 13244 specifically provides for notice of adoption of a water quality control plan by publication. There is no statutory requirement for notice to each individual who could possibly be affected by Resolution No. 73-13. Notice of the public hearing leading to adoption of Resolution No. 73-13 on August 28, 1973 was published in the San Rafael Independent Journal and mailed directly to persons on an extensive mailing list. After hearing testimony on August 28, the regional board delayed its decision on the proposed action until its September 25th meeting. On August 29, 1973 an article on the proposed action was published in the San Francisco Chronic

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Dated: July 18, 1974

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