

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

RESOLUTION NO. 78-5

POSITION STATEMENT REGARDING SURFACE RUNOFF

- I. Whereas this Regional Board, on April 8, 1975, adopted the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan) which identified urban runoff as a significant source of pollutants.
- II. Whereas, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) is developing a Water Quality Management Plan pursuant to Section 208 of PL 92-500 as a part of their Environmental Management Planning Program.
- III. Whereas, ABAG in the Draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP) has identified surface runoff (urban and non-urban runoff) as a significant source of pollutants.
- IV. Whereas, pursuant to Federal and State law the Regional Board has both planning and regulatory responsibility for surface runoff.
- V. Whereas, the staff of ABAG has requested a statement by the Regional Board regarding surface runoff and the Board agrees that there is a need for a position statement by the Regional Board regarding surface runoff.
- VI. Whereas on February 21, 1978, this Regional Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments regarding this matter.
- VII. Whereas, this Regional Board recognizes that plans for surface runoff control have been prepared by eight counties as a part of the initial 208 plan.
- VIII. Therefore be it resolved, that the position of the Regional Board regarding surface runoff be as follows:
 - A. Surface runoff is a significant source of pollutants in the San Francisco Bay Basin. Although the specific impacts of these pollutants are not known, there is ample scientific evidence to indicate that these pollutants may cause adverse impacts on the aquatic environment.
 - B. The Regional Board will pursue a program to require local governments to take reasonable steps to reduce pollutant loads from surface runoff.
 - C. The development and implementation of best management practices acceptable to the Regional Board will constitute reasonable steps to reduce pollutant loads from surface runoff.
 - D. Best management practices which have particular merit should be applied throughout the Region. Individual jurisdictions which do not implement best management practices should satisfy the Regional Board that there is good reason for not doing so.

- E. The development and implementation of best management practices is a local responsibility through the 208 planning process. The Regional Board will participate in the continuing planning process but the exact form of that participation has yet to be determined. It is the intent of the Regional Board to work closely with local governments in the development and implementation of best management practices.

- F. The Regional Board will monitor the effectiveness of local agencies in developing and implementing best management practices. If the Board finds that local agencies are not taking reasonable steps to reduce pollutant loads in surface runoff, the Board will take steps to regulate surface runoff through the issuance of waste discharge requirements or NPDES permits. The Regional Board will also implement any NPDES permit program for surface runoff required by Federal regulation. The Regional Board will encourage the participation of local agencies in the development of a permit program for surface runoff. Public hearings will be held prior to the adoption of any permit.

- G. The Regional Board will be responsible for prescribing monitoring programs to be conducted by wastewater dischargers and for directing research and monitoring programs to determine the impact of surface runoff pollutants on the aquatic environment.

- H. The Regional Board will act directly to regulate surface runoff wherever it is shown to cause significant adverse impacts on beneficial uses or to cause violations of water quality objectives.

I, Fred H. Dierker, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on February 21, 1978.

FRED H. DIERKER
Executive Officer