

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
FRANCISCO BAY REGION**

**RESOLUTION NO. 85-0007**

**SUPPORT FOR THE MORATORIUM ON NEW SEWER CONNECTIONS  
ADOPTED BY THE BOLINAS COMMUNITY PUBLIC UTILITIES DISTRICT  
AND STATEMENT OF THE BOARD'S POSITION REGARDING CORRECTION  
OF THE SEWAGE COLLECTION, TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL PROBLEMS  
IN THE BOLINAS COMMUNITY**

- I. WHEREAS, the Bolinas Community Public Utilities District (hereinafter District) owns and operates a municipal wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system in Bolinas, Marin County, and;
- II. WHEREAS, the District presently collects, treats and disposes approximately 30,000 gallons per day (gpd) of municipal sewage (average dry weather flow) from some 165 residences of the sewered portion of the community. The remainder of the community is served by private on-site wastewater systems. Wastewater from the sewered area is collected and pumped to a series of four oxidation ponds for stabilization and storage, with ultimate disposal through pond evaporation and spray disposal on some 45 acres of grassland, and;
- III. WHEREAS, the present treatment and disposal system (lift station, four waste ponds and spray disposal facilities) were completed with a federal grant in 1975. A 900 foot section of pipeline was replaced and a force main installed as part of the treatment system. This eliminated the direct discharge of collected sewage to Bolinas lagoon, and;
- IV. WHEREAS, the present collection system consists of approximately 8000 linear feet of 6-inch sewer and 2,400 linear feet of 8-inch sewer, constructed between 1908 and 1919. Much of this system has badly deteriorated. A 1973 pipeline survey documented over 50 breaks and cracks in a 300 foot section alone. This situation has caused a severe infiltration/inflow (i/i) problem during the rainy season - resulting in excess flows and failures at the lift station, sewage bypassing, pond overflows, and over saturation of the disposal fields. Exfiltration of raw sewage to groundwater and Bolinas lagoon is also suspected, and;
- V. WHEREAS, beneficial uses of Bolinas lagoon are:
  1. Water Contact and Non-contact Recreation
  2. Ocean commercial and Sport Fishing
  3. Wildlife Habitat
  4. Preservation of Rare and Endangered Species
  5. Marine Habitat
  6. Fish migration
  7. Fish Spawning
  8. Shellfish Harvesting

- VI. WHEREAS, due to the excessive i/i and lift station problems sewage has been bypassed several times to Bolinas lagoon and in at least one instance into the streets. The water supply systems are also in poor repair and overflowing sewage may threaten drinking water. In a letter of April 10, 1985 the Marin County Department of Health (County Health) has declared the continuing failures in the Bolinas sewer system a real and potential public health hazard and requests the Regional Board to do what it can in alleviating the problem, and;
- VII. WHEREAS, the unsewered portions of the Bolinas community also have sewage disposal problems. The entire Mesa portion of the community (an area of about 300 acres on a bluff overlooking Bolinas Bay) is served by on-site sewage disposal systems (septic tank/leaching systems). Poor soils and surface/subsurface drainage on the Mesa results in system failures and precludes the installation of effective new systems on much of the Mesa. These systems fall under the jurisdiction of County Health, and;
- VIII. WHEREAS, on February 27, 1985 the District adopted Resolution No. 259, declaring a sewage collection system emergency and establishing a moratorium on new sewer connections until funding can be obtained to make the necessary repairs to correct the i/i and other system problems, and;
- IX. WHEREAS, the District has attempted to obtain federal grant funding for system repairs in the past, but without success. Federal funding has been limited to high priority projects with documented public health problems. Due to limited funding no new projects are currently being added to the Priority list, and;
- X. WHEREAS, the State Clean Water Bond Law of 1984 provides \$40 million dollars to be used for state supplemental grants to qualifying small communities that receive regular state and federal grants. Under the 1984 Bond Law the State Board will allow the addition of small community projects to the Priority list upon adequate documentation of a public health hazard or water quality problem. The Bond Law provides for funding to a community for up to 97-1/2 percent of the costs of doing a pollution study to provide the documentation. The State Board will be considering pollution study grants for a number of communities for FY 1985, and;
- XI. WHEREAS, this Regional Board concurs with the District and County Health that the present sewer collection/treatment system in Bolinas poses a significant threat to water quality and public health. The Board also recognizes the sewage disposal problems in the Mesa area and supports seeking grant funding to obtain final solutions to both problem areas.

- XII. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Regional Board supports Resolution 259, adopted by the Bolinas Community Public Utilities District on February 27, 1985, establishing a moratorium on new sewer connections to the existing collection system until grant funding has been obtained to correct excessive I/I and system failures.
- XIII. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Regional Board recommends to the State Water Resources Control Board that the Bolinas Community Public Utility District's collection/treatment system be considered for a pollution study grant under the small community assistance section of the State Bond Law of 1984.
- XIV. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Regional Board supports the Marin County Department of Health in resolving the sewage disposal problems on the Bolinas Mesa, including seeking future grant assistance to explore and implement innovative and alternative treatment systems. A pollution study grant under Bond Law 1984 will be requested to support such future funding requests.
- XV. I, Roger B. James, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that 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 May 15, 1985.

ROGER B. JAMES  
Executive Officer