

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 83-81

APPROVAL OF A REQUEST FOR AN EXCEPTION TO THE STATE BOARD'S WATER
QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR OCEAN WATER OF CALIFORNIA FOR HUMBOLDT
COUNTY RESORT IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1

WHEREAS:

1. The State Board adopted the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California (State Ocean Plan) in 1972 and a revised plan in 1978.
2. The State Ocean Plan establishes a prohibition for discharges to Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS).
3. The State Board adopted Resolution No. 74-28 on March 21, 1974 designating the King Range National Conservation Area as an ASBS. Discharges which would alter natural water quality conditions in ASBS are prohibited by the State Ocean Plan.
4. The Humboldt County Resort Improvement District (HCRID) operates a wastewater treatment facility which discharges highly treated effluent into the ASBS.
5. Consultants for HCRID conducted a thorough study of water quality conditions and effects of the discharge upon the marine community in the vicinity. The study reveals that the existing discharge is not altering natural water quality conditions or adversely impacting the marine community.
6. HCRID requested an exemption from the State Ocean Plan which would allow a continuation of discharge of highly treated wastewater effluent into the ASBS.
7. A public hearing was conducted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, (Regional Board) on March 24, 1983 to receive testimony relative to HCRID's request.
8. The Regional Board supports HCRID's request for an exemption to the State Ocean Plan.
9. A public hearing was conducted by the State Board on October 5, 1983 to receive testimony on this matter.


THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the State Board grants an exception to the State Ocean Plan for HCRID's continuation of the discharge of highly treated wastewater from HCRID's treatment plant into the Shelter Cove portion of the Kings Range National Conservation Area ASBS.

2. That this exemption is granted recognizing that continued ocean discharge is the appropriate alternative, provided that the effluent is dechlorinated prior to discharge, the discharge is limited to the current design capacity, and the effluent monitoring and periodic evaluations of the marine environment are conducted to determine the impact on the ASBS with appropriate action taken if necessary. An evaluation of the monitoring and evaluation data indicating an adverse impact on the environment within the ASBS area will provide the basis for revoking the exception.
3. This exemption will become effective upon approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Executive Director is hereby directed to transmit this resolution to EPA for its approval.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and a correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on October 20, 1983.


Executive Director