

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
RESOLUTION NO. 90-111

APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE TULARE LAKE BASIN (BASIN 5D) DELETING A BENEFICIAL USE DESIGNATION FOR SPECIFIC GROUND WATERS IN THE VICINITY OF THE LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC. SITE IN SECTION 29, T30S, R22E, MDB&M

WHEREAS:

1. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Regional Board), adopted and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) approved the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Tulare Lake Basin (Basin 5D) in 1975.
2. Division 7 of the California Water Code states that basin plans shall be periodically reviewed and, if appropriate, revised.
3. The State Board adopted Resolution No. 88-63, Sources of Drinking Water Policy on May 19, 1988, which defines the criteria for removing the beneficial use, Municipal Use and Domestic Supply (MUN), from surface and ground waters.
4. The Central Valley Regional Board adopted Resolution No. 89-98 on May 26, 1989 amending the Basin 5D Basin Plan to incorporate State Board Resolution No. 88-63 into the Basin 5D Basin Plan, and the State Board approved the amendment under Resolution No. 89-75 on August 17, 1989.
5. The Central Valley Regional Board adopted Resolution No. 90-240 (Attachment) on August 10, 1990 amending the Basin 5D Basin Plan to remove the beneficial use designation of MUN from ground waters and to confirm that MUN is not a beneficial use of three springs within one-half mile radius of the Liquid Waste Management, Inc. site in Section 29, T30S, R22E, MDB&M.
6. The Central Valley Regional Board Resolution No. 90-240 is based on site specific conditions. In Resolution No. 90-240, the Central Valley Regional Board found that:
  - a. The Antelope Shale member of the marine Monterey formation, which is the only bedrock cropping out on and immediately adjacent to the site, contains ground water and discharges spring water with concentrations of total dissolved solids (TDS) in excess of 3,000 mg/l. The TDS concentration in the ground water ranges from 3,900 mg/l to 32,000 mg/l. The TDS concentration in the spring water ranges from 28,000 mg/l to 53,000 mg/l.

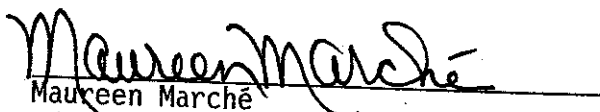
- b. The naturally occurring contamination of the ground and spring waters with volatile organics and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons is caused by tar migration and tar seepage from the Antelope Shale both on and adjacent to the site. This naturally occurring contamination cannot reasonably be treated to allow the ground and spring waters to be used for domestic purposes through either best management practices or best economically achievable treatment practices.
  - c. Due to excessive TDS, chloride and sulfate content, the occurrence of tar, and costs of treatment, the ground and spring waters of the Antelope Shale within one-half mile radius of the Liquid Waste Management Incorporated site cannot reasonably be expected to supply a public water system.
  - d. There is no existing MUN use of the ground or spring waters in the subject area.
7. It is the Central Valley Regional Board staff's opinion that all ground and spring water contamination is naturally occurring and that the Liquid Waste Management Inc. site does not contribute to the contamination.
  8. The proposed Basin Plan amendment is consistent with the requirements of Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq. (California Environmental Quality Act).
  9. The Central Valley Regional Board Resolution No. 90-240 was adopted in accordance with State laws and regulations.
  10. Basin Plan amendments do not become effective until approved by the State Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the State Board approves the Basin Plan amendment adopted by the Central Valley Regional Board under Resolution No. 90-240.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Administrative Assistant to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a policy duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on November 27, 1990.

  
Maureen Marché  
Administrative Assistant to the Board