

## TABLE 4-1 DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

### IT SHALL BE PROHIBITED TO DISCHARGE:

1. Any wastewater which has particular characteristics of concern to beneficial uses at any point at which the wastewater does not receive a minimum initial dilution of at least 10:1, or into any nontidal water, dead-end slough, similar confined waters, or any immediate tributaries thereof.
2. Any wastewater which has particular characteristics of concern to beneficial uses to San Francisco Bay south of the Dumbarton Bridge.
3. Any wastewater which has particular characteristics of concern to beneficial uses to Suisun Marsh during the dry weather period of the year. Local irrigation return water is excepted in quantities and qualities consistent with good irrigation practices.
4. Any wastewater which has particular characteristics of concern to beneficial uses to Alameda Creek when no natural flow occurs.
5. Any wastewater which has particular characteristics of concern to beneficial uses to Tomales Bay, Drakes Estero, Limantour Estero, Bolinas Lagoon, or Richardson Bay (between Sausalito Point and Peninsula Point).
6. All conservative toxic and deleterious substances, above those levels which can be achieved by a program acceptable to the Regional Board, to waters of the Basin.
7. Rubbish, refuse, bark, sawdust, or other solid wastes into surface waters or at any place where they would contact or where they would be eventually transported to surface waters, including flood plain areas.
8. Floating oil or other floating materials from any activity in quantities sufficient to cause deleterious bottom deposits, turbidity or discoloration in surface waters.

### DISCUSSION

Waste discharges will contain some levels of pollutants regardless of treatment. This prohibition will require that these pollutants, when of concern to beneficial uses, be discharged away from areas such as nontidal waters and dead-end sloughs. This prohibition will (a) provide an added degree of protection from the continuous effects of waste discharge, (b) provide a buffer against the effects of abnormal discharges caused by temporary plant upsets or malfunctions, (c) minimize public contact with undiluted wastes, and (d) reduce the visual (aesthetic) impact of waste discharges.

This prohibition is consistent with the 1974 Bays & Estuaries Policy. This area is one that has experienced chronic water quality problems.

The threat of high concentrations of toxicants, biostimulants, and oxygen-demanding substances in Suisun Marsh, an area of low assimilative capacity, great ecological sensitivity and value, and poor dispersion by tidal or freshwater flushing, necessitates such protection for the Marsh for the critical portion of the year when freshwater flows are nonexistent.

The threat of dissolved solids, stable organics, and other pollutant accumulation in the groundwater of the basins recharged with waters of Alameda Creek is critical in the dry weather period when wastewater could account for much of the water percolating to the basin.

Tomales Bay, Drakes Estero, and Limantour Estero are nearly pristine bodies of water and of great value for wildlife habitat and as recreational and scientific study areas. Bolinas Lagoon and Richardson Bay both have poor dispersion capability and low assimilative capacity. They have experienced high coliform, nutrient, and algal concentrations. This prohibition will provide protection for the intensive recreational beneficial uses of these water bodies.

The intent of the prohibition is to minimize the discharge of persistent toxicants into waters, thus protecting aquatic life and public water supplies. The prohibition recognizes that these substances can be most economically reduced at their source.

The prohibition is intended primarily to protect recreational uses, including boating and navigation. Floating rubbish can also impair suitability of waters for industrial cooling and other diversions by endangering pumps. This prohibition is in conformance with the Bays and Estuaries Policy.

The prohibition is intended to protect birds and other wildlife from the possible toxic effects of floating oil or oil deposits. Waterfowl and shorebirds in particular can be affected through coating of feathers and loss of thermal insulation. This prohibition is also intended to prevent visual nuisance that would be caused by floating oil or by its deposition on shore or on structures and to protect recreational uses which would be impaired by oil deposited on boats, other equipment, or persons.

**TABLE 4-1 DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS (CONTINUED)****IT SHALL BE PROHIBITED TO DISCHARGE:**

9. Silt, sand, clay, or other earthen materials from any activity in quantities sufficient to cause deleterious bottom deposits, turbidity or discoloration in surface waters or to unreasonably affect or threaten to affect beneficial uses.

10. Sludges of municipal or industrial waste origin and sludge digester supernatant, centrate, or filtrate directly to surface waters or to a waste stream that discharges to surface waters without adequate treatment in conformance with waste discharge requirements.

11. Biocides of a persistent or cumulative form which have particular characteristics of concern to beneficial uses when applied where direct or indirect discharge to water is threatened except where net environmental benefit can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Regional Board. A management plan for the use and control of biocides in these cases must be approved by the Regional Board.

12. Radiological, chemical, or biological warfare agents or high level radioactive waste.

13. Oil or any residuary product of petroleum to the waters of the state, except in accordance with waste discharge requirements or other provisions of Division 7, California Water Code.

14. Sewage-bearing wastewater to individual leaching or percolation systems in the Stinson Beach area of Marin County, the Glen Ellen area of Sonoma County, and the Emerald Lake Hills and Oak Knoll Manor areas of San Mateo County, as specified in Regional Board Resolutions (Chapter 5) and sections in this chapter on groundwater protection and on-site wastewater systems.

15. Raw sewage or any waste failing to meet waste discharge requirements to any waters of the Basin.

16. Waste that is not a sufficient distance from areas designated as being of special biological significance to assure maintenance of natural water quality conditions in these areas.

17. Waste so as to alter the total dissolved solids or salinity of waters of the state to adversely affect beneficial uses, particularly fish migration and estuarine habitat.

18. Sewage, whether treated or untreated, from any vessel into that portion of Richardson Bay bounded by the shore and by a line bearing 257 degrees from Peninsula Point to the shore at Sausalito, in Marin County.

**DISCUSSION**

This is in conformance with the Bays and Estuaries Policy. The intent of this prohibition is to prevent damage to the aquatic biota by bottom deposits which can smother non-motile life forms, destroy spawning areas, and, if putrescible, can locally deplete dissolved oxygen and cause odors. The prohibition would also prevent discoloration and/or turbidity that can be caused by silt and earth. As one measure of compliance with this prohibition, design and maintenance of erosion and sediment control structures should comply with accepted engineering practices as identified in ABAG's *Manual of Standards for Erosion and Sediment Control Measures*. Turbidity or discoloration caused by dredging is covered by the Regional Board's policy on dredging (see section under nonpoint source control).

The intent of this prohibition is to preclude a major potential source of bottom deposits, which could smother aquatic biota and cause localized dissolved oxygen depletion. Some sludges contain floatable material which would cause visual nuisance. Some industrial sludges contain persistent toxic matter. If discharged without adequate treatment, digester supernatant, centrate, and filtrate are generally septic and would cause odors, discoloration, and dissolved oxygen depletion.

It is the intent of this prohibition to prevent, as much as practicable, the entrance into the aquatic environment of persistent and/or cumulative biocides (pesticides, herbicides, copper, etc.). This is necessary to minimize the toxic effects of these substances on the aquatic biota.

The intent of the prohibition is to protect human and aquatic life from the adverse effects of these materials.

Discharge of oil or residuary products of petroleum is also prohibited under the Fish and Game Code.

The intent of this prohibition is to prevent degradation of groundwater from septic systems in these areas.

The intent of this prohibition is to protect the public and the aquatic environment from the effects of raw or inadequately treated waste discharges.

The intent of this prohibition is to protect the relatively pristine nature of these special areas.

The intent of this prohibition is to prohibit the discharge of excessively salty water to streams and the Bay-Delta system.

The intent of this prohibition is to prevent high bacteriological counts in Richardson Bay due to significant sewage discharges from vessels.