

THE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
RESOLUTION NO. 80-45

REMANDING FOR RECONSIDERATION AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SANTA ANA RIVER BASIN (8), REVISING THE EFFECTIVE DATES AND ESTABLISHING MODIFIED CRITERIA FOR EXEMPTIONS FROM THE YUCAIPA-CALIMESA PROHIBITION

WHEREAS:

1. On April 17, 1975, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (Regional Board), adopted a Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana Basin (Basin Plan). This Basin Plan was approved by the State Board on April 17, 1975, in Resolution No. 75-28.
2. The Basin Plan contains a waste discharge prohibition for the Yucaipa-Calimesa area, with interim exemption criteria. In part, the prohibition called for elimination of discharge of waste from individual leaching or percolation systems on lots of less than one acre by July 1, 1977.
3. On March 18, 1977, the Regional Board, by Resolution No. 77-87, modified the Yucaipa-Calimesa area prohibition to July 1, 1980. This amendment was approved by the State Board on May 19, 1977, in Resolution No. 77-47.
4. A proposed amendment of the Yucaipa-Calimesa area prohibition was adopted by the Regional Board in Resolution No. 79-160 on August 31, 1979. The proposed amendment would exempt individual systems installed on lots between one-half acre and one acre if certain exemption criteria were met and extend the final prohibition date to July 1, 1985.
5. The record contains substantial evidence that discharge of waste from individual disposal systems at a density of more than one system per one acre would result in violation of water quality objectives, impair present or future beneficial uses of water, cause pollution, nuisance, or contamination, and will unreasonably degrade the quality of the waters of the State.
6. In adopting the presently proposed amendment, the Regional Board considered an environmental assessment of the impacts of extending the final prohibition date to July 1, 1985, and concluded that there were no unmitigated adverse impacts from such extension. However, our review of the record indicates that Regional Board adoption of the proposed amendment was based on the assumption that the Yucaipa Valley County Water District (YVCWD) would expeditiously proceed with construction of a 4.5 million gallons per day (mgd) wastewater facility, that discharges from individual disposal systems would be eliminated through connection to the wastewater treatment facility, and that continued discharge from individual disposal systems in the Yucaipa-Calimesa area would be only short-term discharges.
7. Recent developments indicate that the District is not wholly committed to construction of the anticipated waste treatment facility, and there is no assurance that the facility will be completed on or before July 1, 1985, or at any time.


8. The proposed amendment, which extends the final prohibition date to July 1, 1985, and provides for interim exemption of lots of less than one acre, is not appropriate in absence of concrete assurance that the anticipated facility will be constructed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Board reaffirms the necessity and appropriateness of the Yucaipa-Calimesa prohibition as contained in the present Basin Plan.
2. Pursuant to Section 13245 of the Water Code, Resolution No. 79-160 is remanded to the Regional Board for reconsideration of whether there is good cause for any amendment of the existing Yucaipa-Calimesa prohibition in light of the lack of assurance of construction of needed wastewater treatment facilities, and for such other action as may be appropriate.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on July 3, 1980.

  
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Clint Whitney  
Executive Director