

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER NO. 74-126

REVISION AND AMENDMENT OF WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN (INTERIM)  
BY THE ADDITION OF A PROHIBITION OF WASTE DISCHARGE FROM  
SEPTIC TANKS OR CESSPOOLS WITHIN  
SNELLING COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
MERCED COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, finds:

1. The Board adopted, on 15 June 1971, a Water Quality Control Plan (Interim), Basins 5A, B, C and D (hereafter "Interim Plan").
2. The interim Plan contains areas where waste discharge from septic tanks and cesspools is prohibited.
3. On 14 December 1973 in the State Personnel Board Auditorium, 801 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, after due public notice, the regional board conducted a public hearing at which evidence was received concerning the discharge from failing septic tanks and cesspools within the Snelling Community Service District.
4. A prohibition of discharge from septic tanks or cesspools in a portion of the Snelling Community Services District was adopted on 15 December 1972. The area already under prohibition is the South 1/2 of Section 4 and those portions of Sections, 2,3,9,10, 11 and 12 between Merced Falls Road and Merced River, and the easterly 1/4 of Section 8, all in T5S, R14E, MDB&M.
5. Surveys by the Merced County Health Department indicate that seventeen or 34% of the domestic water supply wells serving the area described in finding 4, above, contained excessive coliform bacteria. The Health Department has determined that a significant number of these wells have been contaminated by sewage.
6. Soil and water conditions within the area described in finding 4, above are similar to that within the Snelling Community Services District.
7. The District Board of Directors and the Merced County Board of Supervisors have requested the regional board to expand the existing prohibition to include the entire area of the Snelling Community Services District.
8. Continued installation of septic tank or cesspools within the Snelling Community Services District will increase the threat to public health and will further unreasonably impair water quality.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The discharge of waste, within the area of the Snelling Community Services District which was not covered in the Board's 15 December 1972 prohibition, from leaching or percolation systems installed

- after 1 January 1974 is prohibited. An exemption to this prohibition may be granted after presentation by the proposed discharger of geologic and hydrologic evidence that leaching system disposal will not, individually or collectively, result in a pollution or nuisance.
2. The area included in the prohibition adopted 15 December 1972 outside the boundaries of Snelling Community Services District is hereby excluded.
  3. The discharge of waste within the Snelling Community Services District from leaching or percolation systems is prohibited after 1 July 1976. An exemption to this prohibition may be granted whenever the regional board finds that the continued operation of septic tanks, cesspools, or other means of disposal in a particular area will not, individually or collectively, directly or indirectly, adversely affect water quality.
  4. Chapter VI of the Interim Plan is revised by the addition of this prohibition, upon approval of the State Water Resources Control Board.

I, JAMES A. ROBERTSON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 14 December 1973.

  
JAMES A. ROBERTSON  
Executive Officer