

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

2101 WEBSTER STREET, SUITE 300

OAKLAND, CA 94612

(510) 464-1255



12 June 1992

TO: Attached Mailing List

SUBJECT: Implementation of a Regional Monitoring Program for the San Francisco Estuary.

On April 15, 1992, the San Francisco Bay Regional Board adopted Resolution 92-043 directing the Executive Officer to implement the Regional Monitoring Plan for San Francisco Bay. The Regional Monitoring Plan is designed to collect information on the concentrations of pollutants in water, sediment and biota from throughout the estuary. The RMP will allow the Regional Board to evaluate the effectiveness of its water quality control program.

This letter is a formal request under Section 13267 of the California Water Code that your agency participate in the implementation of the baseline portion of the RMP. It is imperative that the implementation be as a collective rather than individual monitoring. A reply by July 7, 1992 on your intention to implement the RMP is requested. Failure to comply could result in an enforcement action under Section 13268 of the California Water Code. I intend to inform the Regional Board at the July 15, 1992 monthly meeting on the progress of implementing the RMP.

There are several operating principles I will be following in implementing the RMP. First, portions of the RMP will be phased in over time and thus costs may increase in future years. Second, there will be linkage to existing or proposed programs by other agencies to eliminate duplication and thereby keep costs reasonable. Third, the RMP in future years will be examining cause and effect relationship which dictates that a certain portion of future efforts be categorized as research. Finally, the program must be accountable and credible to the regulatory agencies, sponsoring agencies and the public. Therefore, we will continue to provide a strong leadership and technical role in the implementation of the RMP.

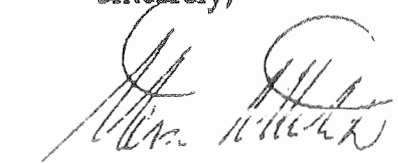
In addition, Resolution 92-043 provides that certain routine monitoring of effluents and ambient waters contained in NPDES permits could be reduced or suspended. Examples of effluent monitoring reductions are daily BOD or total suspended solids.

ammonia, and oil/grease. Examples of ambient monitoring parameters that could be suspended are dissolved oxygen, ammonia, pH, conductivity (or salinity), temperature, and coliforms. All reductions or suspensions will be considered on a case-by case basis. There will be no reduction or suspension in toxicity monitoring. There will be consideration in reducing the frequency of toxic pollutant monitoring based on past monitoring results. Proposals for reductions or suspensions should be made directly to your contact in the Surface Water Management Division subsequent to the July 7 response deadline.

Regional Board staff and I have had numerous meetings with 28 dischargers (13 POTWs, 12 Industrial, Santa Clara and Alameda urban runoff programs, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) regarding this action. I believe that all POTWs should be included at this time, at least at a minimal level. Exact cost participation will be decided soon for the 1992-1993 fiscal year. In the 1993-1994 fiscal year, additional urban runoff and small industrial dischargers will be included.

If you have any questions regarding this request please contact me at (510)464-0516 or Michael P. Carlin at (510)464-1325 of my staff.

Sincerely,



STEVEN R. RITCHIE
Executive Officer

Attachments: Resolution 92-043
Mailing List