

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
RESOLUTION NO. 75-73

CONCURRENCE WITH EXCEPTIONS TO THE  
THERMAL PLAN FOR SHELL OIL (MARTINEZ)

WHEREAS:

1. On May 18, 1972, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted a "Water Quality Plan for Control of Temperature in the Coastal and Interstate Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California", hereinafter called the Thermal Plan.
2. Shell Oil Company, hereinafter the discharger, currently discharges approximately 4.5 mgd of cooling and process water through a multiport diffuser to the Carquinez Strait near Martinez, California.
3. By letter dated September 1, 1972, the discharger requested from the Regional Board an exception to specific water quality objective 5.A.(1)a of the Thermal Plan, that the maximum temperature of an elevated temperature shall not exceed the natural receiving water temperature by more than 20°F.
4. Shell Oil Company has requested the Regional Board to grant an exception using as authority Section 4.D. of the General Water Quality Provisions of the Thermal Plan, quoted below:
  - "4. An exception to the specific water quality objectives of this plan may be authorized by a Regional Board for a specific discharge upon a finding following a public hearing that:
    - D. Compliance by existing dischargers with specific water quality objectives would require modification of operation or facilities not commensurate with benefit to the aquatic environment."
5. After review of all pertinent data and testimony received at a public hearing, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board concluded that the existing discharge reasonably assures full protection of the aquatic environment, and that compliance with the maximum 20°F differential between waste discharge and receiving water at all times would require modification of operations or facilities not commensurate with benefit to the environment.
6. The Regional Board by Resolution No. 75-9 dated April 15, 1975, requested concurrence with an exception to Specific Water Quality Objective 5.A.(1)a of the Thermal Plan and proposed as an alternative that:

"The temperature of waste water discharged through a submerged diffuser, shall not exceed the natural receiving water temperature by more than 40°F during

the months of October through March and shall not exceed natural receiving water temperature more than 30°F during the months of April through September."

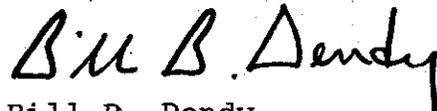
7. The State Water Resources Control Board finds that alternative less stringent requirements proposed in Regional Board Order No. 75-9 will assure the protection and propagation of a balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife within the meaning of Section 316(a) of P. L. 92-500.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the State Water Resources Control Board concurs with Resolution No. 75-9 of the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board, and finds that alternative less stringent requirements to the Thermal Plan recommended for Shell Oil (Martinez) will assure the protection and propagation of a balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife within the meaning of Section 316(a) of P. L. 92-500.

#### CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Executive Officer 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 **JUL 17 1975**



Bill B. Dendy  
Executive Officer