

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
RESOLUTION NO. 77-88

POSITION STATEMENT WITH RESPECT TO ALTERNATIVE  
WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

WHEREAS:

1. The California Legislature has declared that the State Water Resources Control Board and each Regional Water Quality Control Board shall be the principal state agencies with primary responsibility for the coordination and control of water quality;
2. Over 2.5 million residents of the State of California are presently serviced by individual on-site wastewater disposal systems;
3. Even with an 87½ percent Clean Water Grant, the cost of conventional wastewater collection and treatment facilities are prohibitive for a number of unsewered communities. Furthermore, these conventional systems may be more energy intensive than low cost-low technology alternatives;
4. 429 unsewered areas appear on the State's current and five-year Clean Water Grants Priority List adopted by this Board on May 19, 1977;
5. There is a need to determine the cost effectiveness, reliability, and health acceptability of alternative wastewater management systems compared to standard conventional collection and treatment facilities;
6. There is almost no application of alternative systems in California and thus limited interest or knowledge of their place in water quality control programs;
7. The Board must concentrate its efforts to encourage and promote rational use of alternative systems so as not to degrade beneficial waters of the State or create public health or nuisance conditions and that the effort must involve the Regional Boards, local government health agencies and other State agencies;
8. In order to coordinate the development of such rational use of alternative systems, the Board must develop a data collection, research, testing, planning, public information and implementation program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the State Water Resources Control Board does hereby announce its support and encouragement to greatly increase effort and emphasis on the use of alternative wastewater disposal systems;
2. That the Executive Director for Water Quality shall be authorized to immediately develop an Action Plan for the use of Alternative Wastewater Disposal Systems in California. A draft Action Plan shall be circulated

2. (cont.)

for comment to all affected State and local government agencies. After all pertinent comments have been considered by the Executive Director for Water Quality, the Action Plan shall be brought before the Board for final consideration;


3. It is the intent of the Board that the Action Plan clearly express a strong commitment to search for and implement low cost-low technology alternatives to conventional wastewater management systems. In development of the Action Plan, the staff shall carefully consider, but not be limited to, at least the following areas:

- a. Further refining of requirements for clean water grant projects to consider alternative systems with the provision that the Board could deny grant funding for conventional collection and treatment facilities where alternative sewage collection methods appear to be as cost effective.
- b. Increased Board and staff involvement in planning and design of alternative systems.
- c. Training programs for staff, grant applicants and consultants on alternative systems together with informational materials to convey to interested parties the need for, desirability and the Board's commitment to this program.
- d. Research, development and demonstration project needs in order to further the applicability of low cost-low technology systems for wastewater management;

4. The Executive Director is instructed to give this resolution wide distribution to the general public, present and potential clean water construction grant applicants, public agencies and officials.

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 September 22, 1977.

  
Executive Director