CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION
San Luis Obispo, California

RESOLUTION NO. 00-001

ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN AND REQUESTING APPROVAL FROM THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD TO

REMOVE THE NITRATE OBJECTIVE FOR SAN LORENZO RIVER

WHEREAS, *the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (Regional Board), adopted the Water Quality Control Plan, Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan), on March 14, 1975,*

WHEREAS, *the Regional Board periodically revises and amends the Basin Plan,*

WHEREAS, *the current nitrate objective for the San Lorenzo River is not reasonable. For example, the existing objective is below background concentrations,*

WHEREAS, *the Regional Board has determined the Basin Plan requires further revision and amendment,*

WHEREAS, *water quality will be protected by the narrative water quality objectives. Regional Board Resolution 95-04 also encourages the County to implement reduced nitrate discharge measures contained within the San Lorenzo Nitrate Management Plan, Phase II Final Report, February 1995, County of Santa Cruz, Health Services Agency, Environmental Health Service. Water quality will also be protected by the nitrate target contained within the draft San Lorenzo River nitrate TMDL once it is approved by the U.S. EPA,*

WHEREAS, *drafts of the proposed amendment have been prepared and distributed to interested persons and agencies for review and comment,*

WHEREAS, *Regional Board staff followed appropriate procedures to satisfy the environmental documentation requirement of the California Environmental Quality Act (PL 92-500 and PL 95-217). The Regional Board finds adoption of these amendments will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment,*

WHEREAS, *notice of public hearing was given by advertising in newspapers of general circulation within the Region,*

AND WHEREAS, *on June 2, 2000, in San Luis Obispo, California, the Regional Board held a public hearing and heard and considered all public testimony.*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED *that based on the draft Basin Plan amendment, the environmental checklist, accompanying written documentation, and public comments received, the Regional Board finds that there is no substantial evidence in the record that adoption of the proposed Basin Plan amendment will have a significant adverse effect on the environment,*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED *that the environmental document prepared by Regional Board staff pursuant to Public Resource Code Section 21080.5 is hereby certified. Following approval of the revised Basin Plan by the State Board, the Executive Officer shall file a Notice of Decision with the State Clearinghouse,*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED *that when appropriate, the Regional Board shall replace the nitrate objective with a TMDL nitrate target for San Lorenzo River or U.S. EPA nutrient criteria,*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED *that the Basin Plan amendment shown on "Attachment A--Basin Plan Amendment" is approved. The amendment will not take effect until approved by the State Board, the Office of Administrative Law, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency,*

AND THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED *that upon approval, the State Board is requested to transmit the amendment to the California Office of Administrative Law and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.*

I, ROGER W. BRIGGS, Executive Officer of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, on June 2, 2000.

Executive Officer

June 2, 2000
Date

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ATTACHMENT A -- BASIN PLAN AMENDMENT

The following Basin Plan amendment is proposed. New language is shown in **bold** and deleted language is ~~struck out.~~

1. Revise the September 8, 1998 Basin Plan, Chapter Three, page III-14 as follows:

~~A specific monthly mean objective for Nitrate (as NO_3) of 0.25 mg/l shall apply to both the upper and lower San Lorenzo River to protect beneficial uses from adverse biostimulatory effects. Specific biostimulant objectives for other surface waters will be added to this section in tabular form once they are determined from further studies.~~