

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Bay Region

RESOLUTION NO. 88-160

REGIONAL BOARD POSITION ON THE DISPOSAL OF EXTRACTED GROUNDWATER
FROM GROUNDWATER CLEANUP PROJECTS

- I WHEREAS, the investigation and cleanup of groundwater contamination resulting from solvent and fuel leaks has been and will continue to be a high priority task for this Regional Board, and
- II WHEREAS, cleanup of such problems is normally accomplished by pumping polluted groundwater from the ground, thus creating a waste requiring environmentally acceptable disposal methods, and
- III WHEREAS, the alternatives for disposal of such wastes are reclamation, discharge to publicly owned treatment works (POTW's), or treatment with discharge to local receiving waters under an NPDES permit, and
- IV WHEREAS, policies of the State of California, its Water Resources Control Board, and this Regional Board all favor reclamation of water whenever feasible, and such policies apply to extracted groundwater, and
- V WHEREAS, when reclamation is not technically and economically feasible, POTW's are:
- A. Capable of providing treatment and disposal of extracted groundwater where appropriate pretreatment limits are met and where sufficient capacity exists,
 - B. Generally able to provide a higher degree of environmental protection in the treatment and disposal of pumped groundwater as compared to treatment and discharge on-site,
 - C. The disposal alternative which involves a lesser drain on regulatory resources and the simplest administrative procedures for the discharger, and
- VI WHEREAS, according to a recent Board survey, most POTW's are either accepting groundwater cleanup discharges or willing to accept such discharges if capacity exists in the collection system and in the treatment plant and if pretreatment limits are met, and

- VII WHEREAS, problems of groundwater pollution and the disposal of groundwater extracted as part of cleanup efforts are of concern to the community at large including the local POTW.
- VIII THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Regional Board urges the dischargers of extracted groundwater from groundwater cleanup projects to reclaim their effluents to the extent technically and economically feasible, and
- IX BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board finds that when reclamation is not technically and economically feasible, discharge to POTW's is in the public interest, and therefore urges:
- A. Dischargers of extracted groundwater from groundwater cleanup projects to pursue this method of disposal, and
 - B. POTW's in the Region to adopt policies for the acceptance of such groundwater discharges when collection and treatment capacity exist, and
- X BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that when this Regional Board finds neither reclamation nor discharge to a POTW is technically and economically feasible, it is the intent of this Board to adopt NPDES permits authorizing the discharge of extracted groundwater, and
- XI BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Officer is hereby instructed to prepare for Board consideration a modification to the exception provisions to its discharge prohibitions so as to directly address discharges of extracted groundwater.

I, Steven R. Ritchie, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, full, and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on October 19, 1988.



Steven R. Ritchie
Executive Officer