

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

RESOLUTION NO. R2-2002-0093

**IN SUPPORT OF
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM THE
STATE WATER POLLUTION CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT
FOR A SAN FRANCISCO BAY
FISH CONSUMPTION OUTREACH AND EDUCATION PROJECT**

Whereas, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Board) sponsored Fish Tissue Study concluded that elevated levels of mercury, PCBs, and other chemicals posed a potential health concern to people who routinely eat most species of fish taken from the Bay. This led to a Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment Fish Advisory for the Bay and the recognition of impaired beneficial uses of the Bay.

Whereas, California Department of Health Services (CDHS) recently completed a survey of people who fish in the Bay and found poor awareness and understanding of the advisory. The study also found that certain ethnic groups may be more highly exposed to chemicals from eating Bay fish. The CDHS Fish Outreach and Education Project makes an important connection between water quality issues, public health protection and environmental justice. The CDHS has little or no funding to continue this important project to protect public health by assuring understanding and implementation of the Fish Advisory.

Whereas, CDHS has expressed interest in applying for funding from the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA) to conduct a project to reduce human exposure to chemical contaminants in San Francisco Bay fish. Project objectives are: (1) to promote awareness and understanding among anglers and their household members of the health risks associated with the consumption of Bay fish; and (2) to effect changes in fishing habits and fish preparation and consumption practices to reduce exposure to chemical contaminants.

Whereas, CDHS has demonstrated the ability and expertise to effectively implement such a project that would protect public health and provide for environmental justice. This proposed project would also effectively support the full implementation of the Fish Advisory.

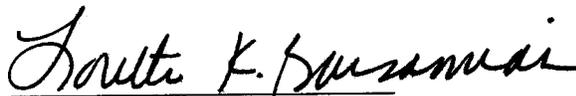
Whereas, Section 13442 of the California Water Code states that upon application by a public agency with authority to clean up waste or abate the effects thereof, the State Board may order moneys to be paid from the CAA to the agency to assist it in cleaning up the waste or abating its effect on waters of the State;

Whereas, funding from the CAA would enable CDHS to implement the proposed project;

Whereas, the CDHS project will have direct benefits to protect public health from impaired beneficial uses and fully implement the Fish Advisory to the most affected parts of the population;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, hereby supports the California Department of Health Services request for funding from the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account for a San Francisco Bay Fish Consumption Outreach and Education project

I, Loretta K. Barsamian, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on September 18, 2002.



Loretta K. Barsamian
Executive Officer