

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SANTA ANA REGION**

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RIVERSIDE, CA 92501-3339  
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SSIC # 5090.3

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING****PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE BASIN PLAN FOR THE SANTA ANA REGION**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (Regional Board) will hold a public hearing to discuss the adoption of an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Santa Ana Region. The Santa Ana Region encompasses the Santa Ana and San Jacinto River watersheds and the bays, estuaries and Pacific Ocean coastal waters from Seal Beach to Muddy Canyon. It includes portions of San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange Counties.

The Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Region (Basin Plan), specifies the beneficial uses of the ground and surface waters of the Region, water quality objectives necessary to protect those uses and a plan of implementation to assure that the objectives are achieved. The implementation plan in the Basin Plan includes language regarding the Regional Board's regulation of waste discharges to receiving waters which lack assimilative capacity for a particular water quality constituent. The Basin Plan states:

*"If there is assimilative capacity in the receiving waters for TDS, nitrogen or other constituents, the allowed waste discharge may be of lower quality than the objectives for those constituents for the receiving waters as long as the discharge does not cause violation of the objectives. However, if there is no assimilative capacity in the receiving waters, such as the subbasins identified above, the numerical limits in the discharge requirements cannot exceed the receiving water objectives or the degradation process would be accelerated. This rule was expressed clearly by the State Water Resources Control Board in a decision regarding the appropriate TDS discharge limitations for the Rancho Caballero Mobilehome park located in the Santa Ana Region (Order No. 73-4, the so called "Rancho Caballero decision") [6]. However, this rule is not meant to restrict overlying agricultural irrigation, or similar activities such as landscape irrigation. Even in subbasins without assimilative capacity, groundwater may be pumped and used for agricultural purposes in the area."*

The last two sentences (shown in italics) have been interpreted in a number of ways and clarification is required. The Regional Board adopted clarifying language on July 5, 1995, however, concerns have been raised that the adopted language is not entirely clear. Therefore, further clarification is necessary.

The Regional Board public hearing will be held as follows:

DATE: October 11, 1996  
TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
PLACE: Orange County Water District  
Joint Facilities Board Room  
10500 Ellis Ave.  
Fountain Valley, CA

The proposed Basin Plan amendment, a staff report describing the amendment and possible alternatives, and an Environmental Checklist which evaluates potential significant adverse environmental effects of adoption of the revised Plan have been prepared. Copies of these documents are available upon request to: Hope Smythe, Chief of the Planning Section, at (909) 782-4493. The proposed Basin Plan amendment and related documents may also be examined at the Regional Board office located at 3737 Main Street, Suite 500, Riverside, by appointment scheduled between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Appointments can be scheduled by calling the Board office at (909) 782-4130.

Public participation is an important part of this process. The Regional Board will accept written and oral testimony at or prior to the hearing. For the sake of accuracy of the record, written copies of oral comments are requested. Comments should be submitted to Hope Smythe at the address listed above. Written responses to comments received by September 26, 1996 will be prepared.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GERARD J. THIBEAULT  
Executive Officer

8/9/96  
Date

## NOTICE OF FILING

**TO:** Interested Persons

**FROM:** California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region  
3737 Main Street, Suite 500  
Riverside, CA 92503-3339  
(909)782-4130

**Subject:** Notice of Filing Submitted Under Section 21080.5 of the Public Resources Code

**Project Proponent:**  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region

**Project Title:**  
Basin Plan Amendment - Revision of the Water Quality Control Plan, Santa Ana River Basin (Santa Ana Region)

**Contact Person:**  
Hope Smythe (909)782-4493

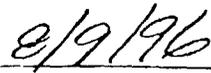
**Project Location:**  
The project affects the Santa Ana Region which is defined in terms of drainage basins by the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, Section 13200(h). The Region encompasses the Santa Ana and San Jacinto River watersheds and the bays, estuaries and Pacific Ocean coastal waters from Seal Beach to Muddy Canyon. The Region includes portions of San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange Counties.

**Project Description:**  
The Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Region (Basin Plan), specifies the beneficial uses of the ground and surface waters of the Region, water quality objectives necessary to protect those uses and a plan of implementation to assure that the objectives are achieved. The proposed amendment is intended to clarify Basin Plan language regarding the pumping of groundwater from subbasins without assimilative capacity for a particular water quality constituent and the Board's regulation of the return of that groundwater to those same subbasins.

The basin planning process has been certified by the Secretary of Resources as exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirement for preparation of an environmental impact report (EIR) or negative declaration and initial study. In lieu of these documents, the Board is required to prepare the following: the Basin Plan amendment (revised Basin Plan); an Environmental Checklist which identifies potential significant adverse environmental impacts of the Basin Plan amendment; and a staff report which describes the proposed Basin Plan amendment, and reasonable alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize the significant adverse environmental impacts identified in the checklist. The Basin Plan amendment, environmental checklist and staff report together are functionally equivalent to an EIR or negative declaration. Copies of these documents are available upon request to Hope Smythe at the Regional Board office.

Adoption of the revised Basin Plan amendment will be considered at the regular meeting of the Regional Board on October 11, 1996. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Orange County Water District, Joint Facilities Board Room, 10500 Ellis Ave., Fountain Valley, California. Persons who wish to make statements regarding these matters are urged to attend the hearing and provide written copies of the comments. Written comments will also be accepted at the Regional Board office prior to the hearing. Written responses to comments received by September 26, 1996 will be prepared.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GERARD J. THIBEAULT  
Executive Officer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Santa Ana Region

October 11, 1996

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE BASIN PLAN FOR THE SANTA ANA REGION**

DISCUSSION

On April 7, 1995, the Regional Board conducted a public workshop to discuss the issue of Regional Board regulation of reclaimed water used for agricultural or landscape irrigation in areas overlying subbasins without total dissolved solids (TDS) assimilative capacity. Attached is the staff report Board staff prepared and distributed which described TDS problems in the Region and the significant efforts which have been made to address them. The report also discussed Basin Plan language regarding TDS assimilative capacity, the State Board's Rancho Caballero decision and the applicability of the Rancho Caballero decision to the Board's regulatory activities.

The Basin Plan language states:

*"If there is assimilative capacity in the receiving waters for TDS, nitrogen or other constituents, the allowed waste discharge may be of lower quality than the objectives for those constituents for the receiving waters as long as the discharge does not cause violation of the objectives. However, if there is no assimilative capacity in the receiving waters, such as the subbasins identified above, the numerical limits in the discharge requirements cannot exceed the receiving water objectives or the degradation process would be accelerated. This rule was expressed clearly by the State Water Resources Control Board in a decision regarding the appropriate TDS discharge limitations for the Rancho Caballero Mobilehome park located in the Santa Ana Region (Order No. 73-4, the so called "Rancho Caballero decision") [6]. However, this rule is not meant to restrict overlying agricultural irrigation, or similar activities such as landscape irrigation. Even in subbasins without assimilative capacity, groundwater may be pumped and used for agricultural purposes in the area."* [highlights added]

The last two sentences have been interpreted by some to mean that the Rancho Caballero decision does not restrict agricultural irrigation with reclaimed water or other waters of TDS quality poorer than subbasin water quality objectives in areas overlying subbasins without TDS assimilative capacity. Alternatively, these sentences can be interpreted to mean that the Rancho Caballero rule does not apply to the use of groundwater when it is pumped from subbasins without assimilative capacity and the return of that groundwater (as by agricultural, landscape irrigation, or groundwater remediation projects) to the same subbasins. Because these sentences are subject to varying interpretations, Board staff recommended clarification of this language in the April 7, 1995 staff report.

The California Water Code (Section 13263) requires that waste discharge requirements implement the Basin Plan. The Basin Plan includes water quality objectives established to

protect beneficial uses. As described in the preceding Basin Plan language, to implement the Basin Plan, waste discharge requirements for discharges to subbasins without TDS assimilative capacity must limit TDS to no more than the subbasin objectives. The first interpretation of the subject Basin Plan language, that the Rancho Caballero rule does not apply to waste discharges when they are used for agricultural or landscape irrigation, does not conform to this California Water Code requirement (Section 13263). Moreover, to excuse agriculture from TDS regulation would be inconsistent with the very significant efforts which have been and continue to be made to address TDS problems in the Region.

After discussion of this matter on April 7th, the Regional Board directed staff to prepare a Basin Plan amendment for their consideration at a public hearing scheduled for July 7, 1995. The proposed Basin Plan amendment revised the subject sentences to reflect that the Rancho Caballero rule does not apply to the pumping of groundwater from subbasins without assimilative capacity and the return of that water to the same subbasins. The Board suggested specific modifications to the two sentences as shown below (language deleted is struck out; language added is highlighted).

... This rule was expressed clearly by the State Water Resources Control Board in a decision regarding the appropriate TDS discharge limitations for the Rancho Caballero Mobilehome park located in the Santa Ana Region (Order No. 73-4, the so called "Rancho Caballero decision") [6]. ~~However, this rule is not meant to restrict overlying agricultural irrigation, or similar activities such as landscape irrigation. Even~~ **Notwithstanding the foregoing discussion**, in subbasins without assimilative capacity, groundwater may be pumped and used for agricultural purposes in the area.

However, comments were received prior to the July 7, 1995 public hearing that the focus of the proposed Basin Plan amendment on agriculture was inappropriate. The proposed amendment was then modified. The modification reflects a broader regulatory policy which has long been implemented by the Regional Board (and statewide) that a discharger is not required to correct or mitigate water quality conditions for which the discharger has no responsibility (i.e., has neither caused nor contributed to). The Board adopted the following revised language as a Basin Plan amendment at the July 7, 1995 public hearing (Resolution No. 95-4).

"If there is assimilative capacity in the receiving waters for TDS, nitrogen or other constituents, the allowed waste discharge may be of lower quality than the objectives for those constituents for the receiving waters as long as the discharge does not cause violation of the objectives. However, if there is no assimilative capacity in the receiving waters, such as the subbasins identified above, the numerical limits in the discharge requirements cannot exceed the receiving water objectives or the degradation process ~~would be accelerated~~ **continue**. This rule was expressed clearly by the State Water Resources Control Board in a decision regarding the appropriate TDS discharge limitations for the Rancho Caballero Mobilehome park located in the Santa Ana Region (Order No. 73-4, the so called "Rancho Caballero decision") [6].

~~However, this rule is not meant to restrict overlying agricultural irrigation, or similar activities such as landscape irrigation. Even~~ Notwithstanding the foregoing discussion, groundwater may be pumped from a subbasin which lacks assimilative capacity for one or more constituents, used and returned to that subbasin provided that there are no additions to the return water of the constituent(s) for which no assimilative capacity is available.

The Basin Plan amendment was forwarded to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) for their consideration. Basin Plan amendments do not become effective until approved by the State Board and the Office of Administrative Law. Prior to the State Board's consideration of the amendment, Regional Board staff requested that the State Board take no action on the Basin Plan amendment. This was requested in response to concerns expressed by Orange County Water District and the Department of the Navy that the adopted language remained ambiguous. The concern expressed was that the revised language did not make it clear that in subbasins without assimilative capacity for TDS (or other constituents), an entity could conduct groundwater remediation projects with re-injection of the product water without reducing TDS or other constituent concentrations to the water quality objectives, as long as the entity was not responsible for the TDS or other constituent for which there was no assimilative capacity. Furthermore, it was suggested that the adopted language could be interpreted incorrectly to imply that an entity conducting groundwater remediation projects which resulted in an incidental increase in the constituent for which there is no assimilative capacity would not be able to return the product water to the subbasin from which it was extracted without violating the Basin Plan and intent of the Rancho Caballero decision. In response to these concerns, staff now proposes further revision of the Basin Plan language. The proposed language is as follows:

If there is assimilative capacity in the receiving waters for TDS, nitrogen or other constituents, the allowed waste discharge may be of lower quality than the objectives for those constituents for the receiving waters as long as the discharge does not cause violation of the objectives. However, if there is no assimilative capacity in the receiving waters, such as the subbasins identified above, the numerical limits in the discharge requirements cannot exceed the receiving water objectives or the degradation process ~~would be accelerated~~ continue. This rule was expressed clearly by the State Water Resources Control Board in a decision regarding the appropriate TDS discharge limitations for the Rancho Caballero Mobilehome park located in the Santa Ana Region (Order No. 73-4, the so called "Rancho Caballero decision") [6]. ~~However, this rule is not meant to restrict overlying agricultural irrigation, or similar activities such as landscape irrigation. Even~~ However, when groundwater is extracted to remediate one or more constituents, it may be returned to the subbasin from which it came without treatment of other constituents, even though there is not assimilative capacity for those constituents in the subbasin, so long as the concentrations of these constituents are no greater than when the groundwater was first extracted. Incidental increases in the concentration of untreated constituents caused by the treatment of other constituents (such as may occur during air stripping), will not be considered increases for purposes of this section.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Requirements

The basin planning process has been certified by the Secretary of Resources as functionally equivalent to the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report or Negative Declaration pursuant to CEQA. Environmental review is nonetheless required. This review includes the preparation of a written report which describes the proposed project, identifies the potential adverse environmental impacts of that project and discusses possible alternatives and mitigation measures. It also includes preparation of an Environmental Checklist. This report, the April 7, 1995 and July 7, 1995 staff reports, the Environmental Checklist and analysis included with this staff report, satisfy those requirements.

Specific public notice requirements pertaining to this Basin Plan amendment have been fulfilled. On August 26, 1996, a Notice of Public Hearing and Notice of Filing were published in several newspapers of general circulation in Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The Notice of Public Hearing and Notice of Filing were also submitted to the Secretary of Resources and the County Clerk of each County and mailed to all interested persons and agencies. A Notice of Decision will be filed after the Regional Board, the State Board and the Office of Administrative Law act on this matter.

Staff Recommendation

Adopt Resolution No. 96-62 adopting the amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) shown in the attachment to the Resolution.

14. On October 11, 1996, the Regional Board held a Public Hearing to consider the Basin Plan amendment. Notice of the Public Hearing was given to all interested persons and published in accordance with Water Code Section 13244.
15. The Basin Plan amendment must be submitted for review and approval by the State Board and the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). Once approved by the State Board, the amendment is submitted to the Office of Administrative Law. A Notice of Decision will be filed after the State Board and the Office of Administrative Law have acted on this matter.
16. The Basin Plan amendment will become effective upon approval by the State Board and Office of Administrative Law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region, adopts the amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (8) as set forth in the attachment.
2. The Executive Officer is directed to forward copies of the Basin Plan amendment to the State Water Resources Control Board in accordance with the requirement of Section 13245 of the California Water Code.
3. The Regional Board requests that the State Water Resources Control Board approve the Basin Plan amendment in accordance with the requirements of Sections 13245 and 13246 of the California Water Code and forward it to the Office of Administrative Law for approval.

I, Gerard J. Thibeault, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region, on October 11, 1996.

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Gerard J. Thibeault  
Executive Officer

## Attachment to Resolution No. 96-62

### Amending the Santa Ana Region Basin Plan

Chapter 5 - Implementation, page 5-14, second column, last paragraph

Basin Plan amendment (language deleted is struck out; language added is highlighted).

If there is assimilative capacity in the receiving waters for TDS, nitrogen or other constituents, the allowed waste discharge may be of lower quality than the objectives for those constituents for the receiving waters as long as the discharge does not cause violation of the objectives. However, if there is no assimilative capacity in the receiving waters, such as the subbasins identified above, the numerical limits in the discharge requirements cannot exceed the receiving water objectives or the degradation process ~~would be accelerated~~ continue. This rule was expressed clearly by the State Water Resources Control Board in a decision regarding the appropriate TDS discharge limitations for the Rancho Caballero Mobilehome park located in the Santa Ana Region (Order No. 73-4, the so called "Rancho Caballero decision") [6]. ~~However, this rule is not meant to restrict overlying agricultural irrigation, or similar activities such as landscape irrigation. Even~~ However, when groundwater is extracted to remediate one or more constituents, it may be returned to the subbasin from which it came without treatment of other constituents, even though there is not assimilative capacity for those constituents in the subbasin, so long as the concentrations of these constituents are no greater than when the groundwater was first extracted. Incidental increases in the concentration of untreated constituents caused by the treatment of other constituents (such as may occur during air stripping), will not be considered increases for purposes of this section.

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Santa Ana Region

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-62**

Resolution Amending the Water Quality Control Plan  
for the Santa Ana River Basin (8)

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (hereinafter Regional Board), finds that:

1. An updated Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (Basin Plan) was adopted by the Regional Board on March 11, 1994, approved by the State Water Resources Control Board on July 21, 1994 and approved by the Office of Administrative Law on January 24, 1995.
2. The Implementation Plan in the Basin Plan specifies a salt management plan to address the salt buildup or mineralization of the region's surface and groundwater bodies.
3. One component of the salt management plan is the identification of groundwater subbasins without assimilative capacity for total dissolved solids (TDS). For these subbasins, discharges of TDS in excess of subbasin water quality objectives would cause or contribute to violation of these objectives.
4. The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses of waters within the Region, sets water quality objectives to protect the beneficial uses and provides a program of implementation to achieve those objectives. California Water Code Section 13263 requires that waste discharge requirements implement the Basin Plan.
5. To implement the Basin Plan, waste discharge requirements for TDS discharges to subbasins without TDS assimilative capacity must limit TDS to no more than the subbasin objectives. Likewise, if there is no assimilative capacity for other constituents, then the discharge limits in waste discharge requirements must be less than, or equal to, the subbasin objective for that constituent. This rule was expressed by the State Water Resources Control Board in Order No. 73-4 regarding the TDS limits which should be established for discharges from the Rancho Caballero Mobilehome Park to a groundwater subbasin without assimilative capacity (the "Rancho Caballero decision").
6. The Basin Plan includes language (shown in italics on the Attachment to this Resolution) regarding TDS assimilative capacity, the Rancho Caballero decision, and the application of the Rancho Caballero decision in the Board's regulatory activities.
7. The Basin Plan language shown on the attachment has been interpreted to mean that the Rancho Caballero rule does not apply to waste discharges when they are used for agricultural irrigation or similar activities, such as landscape irrigation. That is, the language can be interpreted to mean that waste discharge requirements for TDS discharges to subbasins without assimilative capacity need not specify TDS limits which are no more than the subbasin objectives when the discharges are used for agricultural or landscape irrigation. Conversely, the language can be interpreted to mean that the Rancho Caballero rule does not apply to the use of groundwater pumped from subbasins

without the TDS assimilative capacity and the return of that groundwater (as by agricultural or landscape irrigation) to the same subbasins. Because it is subject to varying interpretations, clarification of this language is necessary.

8. The interpretation that the Rancho Caballero rule does not apply to waste discharges when they are used for agricultural irrigation or similar activities does not conform to the law (Water Code Section 13263, see Finding No. 4). Nor is this interpretation consistent with the very significant efforts which have been and are being made by the Board, dischargers and other interested parties, to control TDS in the ground and surface waters of the region.
9. In accordance with long-standing statewide implementation of the Water Code, the Regional Board does not require a discharger to mitigate or correct water quality conditions which the discharger has not caused or contributed to. Therefore, groundwater pumped from a subbasin which lacks assimilative capacity for one or more substances can be pumped, used, and returned to the same subbasin provided that the discharger does not add to the return water the constituent(s) for which no assimilative capacity is available. Revision of the Basin Plan language is necessary to reflect this finding.
10. The Regional Board discussed this matter and a proposed Basin Plan amendment at a workshop conducted on April 7, 1995 and adopted an amendment at a public hearing conducted on July 7, 1995 (Resolution No. 95-54). Comments received subsequent to Regional Board adoption of the amendment (but prior to State Board consideration of the amendment), necessitate further clarification of the Basin Plan amendment. The Regional Board discussed a revised Basin Plan amendment at a public hearing conducted on October 11, 1996 after notice was given to all interested persons in accordance with Section 13244 of the California Water Code. The testimony received at the workshop and hearing was considered in the preparation of the Basin Plan amendment.
11. The Regional Board has prepared and distributed a written report (Staff Report) regarding adoption of the Basin Plan amendment in compliance with applicable state and federal environmental regulations (California Code of Regulations Section 3775, Title 23 and 40 CFR Parts 25 and 131).
12. The process of basin planning has been certified by the Secretary for Resources as exempt from the requirement of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et seq*) to prepare an Environmental Impact Report or Negative Declaration. The Basin Plan amendment includes a completed Environmental Checklist, an assessment of the environmental impacts of the Basin Plan amendment and a discussion of alternatives. The amended Basin Plan, Environmental checklist, staff report and supporting documentation are functionally equivalent to an Environmental Impact Report or Negative Declaration.
13. The Regional Board has considered federal and state antidegradation policies and other relevant water quality control policies and finds the Basin Plan amendment consistent with those policies.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

### I. BACKGROUND:

1. Name of Proponent:  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region.
2. Address and Phone Number of Proponent:  
3737 Main St., Suite 500, Riverside CA 92503, (909)782-4130
3. Date Checklist Submitted: August 23, 1996
4. Agency Requiring Checklist: N/A
5. Name of Proposal, if applicable:  
Basin Plan Amendment - Revision of Implementation Plan

### II. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

(All "yes" and "maybe" answers are explained on attached sheets.)

- |   | <u>Yes</u> | <u>Maybe</u> | <u>No</u> |
|---|------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1. <b>Earth.</b> Will the proposal result in:   |            |              |           |
| a. Unstable earth conditions or changes in geologic substructures?  | ___        | ___          | _X_       |
| b. Disruptions, displacements, compaction or overcoming of the soil?  | ___        | ___          | _X_       |
| c. Change in topography or ground surface relief features?  | ___        | ___          | _X_       |
| d. The destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?   | ___        | ___          | _X_       |
| e. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?   | ___        | ___          | _X_       |
| f. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may modify the channel of river or stream or the of the ocean or any bay, inlet or lake? | ___        | ___          | _X_       |

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

### I. BACKGROUND:

1. Name of Proponent:  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region.
2. Address and Phone Number of Proponent:  
3737 Main St., Suite 500, Riverside CA 92503, (909)782-4130
3. Date Checklist Submitted: August 23, 1996
4. Agency Requiring Checklist: N/A
5. Name of Proposal, if applicable:  
Basin Plan Amendment - Revision of Implementation Plan

### II. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

(All "yes" and "maybe" answers are explained on attached sheets.)

- |   | <u>Yes</u> | <u>Maybe</u> | <u>No</u> |
|---|------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1. <b>Earth.</b> Will the proposal result in:   |            |              |           |
| a. Unstable earth conditions or changes in geologic substructures?  | ___        | ___          | _X_       |
| b. Disruptions, displacements, compaction or overcoming of the soil?  | ___        | ___          | _X_       |
| c. Change in topography or ground surface relief features?  | ___        | ___          | _X_       |
| d. The destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?   | ___        | ___          | _X_       |
| e. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?   | ___        | ___          | _X_       |
| f. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may modify the channel of river or stream or the of the ocean or any bay, inlet or lake? | ___        | ___          | _X_       |

Yes Maybe No

- g. Exposure of people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground failure, or similar hazards?                 X
2. **Air.** Will the proposal result in:
- a. Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality?                 X
- b. The creation of objectionable odors?                 X
- c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature, or any change in climate either locally or regionally?                 X
3. **Water.** Will the proposal result in:
- a. Changes in current, or the course of direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters?                 X
- b. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff?                 X
- c. Alterations to the course or flow of flood waters?                 X
- d. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body?                 X
- e. Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?                 X
- f. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of groundwater?                 X
- g. Change in the quantity of groundwaters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations?                 X
- h. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies?                 X

Yes Maybe No

- i. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding or tidal waves?                      X
4. **Plant Life.** Will the proposal result in:
- a. Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?                      X
- b. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of plants?                      X
- c. Introduction of new species of plants into an area, or in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species?                      X
- d. Reduction in acreage of any agricultural crop?                      X
5. **Animal Life.** Will the proposal result in:
- a. Change in the diversity of species, or numbers of any species of animals (birds, land animals, including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms or insects?)                      X
- b. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals?                      X
- c. Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?                      X
- d. Deterioration to existing fish or wildlife habitat?                      X
6. **Noise.** Will the proposal result in:
- a. Increases in existing noise levels?                      X
- b. Exposure of people to severe noise levels?                      X



		<u>Yes</u>	<u>Maybe</u>	<u>No</u>
e.	Alterations to waterborne, rail or air traffic?	___	___	_X_
f.	Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians?	___	___	_X_
14.	<b>Public Services.</b> Will the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas:			
a.	Fire Protection?	___	___	_X_
b.	Police Protection?	___	___	_X_
c.	Schools?	___	___	_X_
d.	Parks or other recreational facilities?	___	___	_X_
e.	Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?	___	___	_X_
f.	Other governmental services?	___	___	_X_
15.	<b>Energy.</b> Will the proposal result in:			
a.	Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy?	___	___	_X_
b.	Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources or energy, or require the development of new sources of energy?	___	___	_X_
16.	<b>Utilities.</b> Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities?			
a.	Power or Natural Gas?	___	___	_X_
b.	Communications systems?	___	___	_X_
c.	Water?	___	___	_X_
d.	Sewer or septic tanks?	___	___	_X_
e.	Storm water drainage?	___	___	_X_
f.	Solid waste and disposal?	___	___	_X_

Yes Maybe No

17. **Human Health.** Will the proposal result in:

a. Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)?

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ X

b. Exposure of people to potential health hazards?

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ X

18. **Aesthetics.** Will the proposal result in the obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public, or will the proposal result in the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ X

19. **Recreation.** Will the proposal result in an impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities?

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ X

20. **Cultural Resources.** Will the proposal result in:

a. The alteration of or the destruction of a prehistoric or historic archaeological site?

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ X

b. Adverse physical or aesthetic effects to a prehistoric or historic building, structure, or object?

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ X

c. The potential to cause a physical change which would effect unique ethnic cultural values?

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ X

d. Restricting existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ X

Yes Maybe No

21. **Mandatory Findings of Significance.**

- a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habit of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? \_\_\_ \_\_\_ X
- b. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one which occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of time while long-term impacts will endure well into the future.) \_\_\_ \_\_\_ X
- c. Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project may impact on two or more separate resources where the impact on each resource is relatively small, but where the effect of the total of those impacts on the environment is significant.) \_\_\_ \_\_\_ X
- d. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? \_\_\_ \_\_\_ X

III. **Discussion of Environmental Evaluation**  
(none)

IV. **Determination**

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

X I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment.

\_\_\_ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant adverse impact on the environment; however, there are feasible alternatives and/or mitigation measures available which will substantially lessen any significant adverse impact. These alternatives and mitigation measures are discussed in the attached written report.

\_\_\_ I find the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment. There are no feasible alternatives and/or feasible mitigation measures available which would substantially lessen any significant adverse impact. See the attached written report for a discussion of this determination.

8/26/96  
Date

*John A. Smythe*  
Signature