

CONTACT MEMO

Date: March 3, 1997
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I talked to Ken about the Watershed Management Initiative program. The following is a summary of our discussion:

- 1) The State Board produced strategic plan for agency about three years ago. One of the initiatives was for a watershed plan to coordinate all of the activities in the watershed, as opposed to program approach. The Regional Boards' were already organizing activities on a watershed basis. U.S. EPA is supportive of this program and would like to consolidate their grant program; they refer to it as integrated planning.
- 2) Short-term effort is not to consolidate groundwater and surface water, although there are plans to consolidate down the road in a year or two. Most of the effort is in surface water.
- 3) Existing regulatory programs, such as NPDES, do not coordinate with other programs. The Regional Boards would come up with their own plans for each watershed. The State Board and EPA will buy off on the Regional Boards' plans.
- 4) Ken emphasized that local people should develop their own plan; this initiative should be a "ground-up" approach. Local groups may have different perspectives; common ground needs to be found in order to develop a program.