waca western agricultural chemicals association

April 29, 1969
#0155

REPORT

Two Hearings - California State Water Resources Board
on
Final Report, Preliminary Edition
San Francisco Bay - Delta Water
Quality Control Program

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These day-long hearings were not replications, although each hearing began with standardized presentations by two officials of Kaiser Engineers, Inc.

Four hearings were to be held: in San Jose, April 16; Martinez, April 21; Sacramento, April 24 and San Francisco, May 2nd. Only the Martinez and Sacramento hearings were attended by me. Both were largely tiresome statements in opposition to The Report by sanitary engineers who were sure that Kaiser Engineers, Inc. had made many professional errors of judgment. The sanitary engineer for the Contra Costa County Sanitary District made an open charge that the State Water Resources Control Board in accepting the Kaiser Report (which it has not yet done) had "sold out to the Metropolitan Water District in Southern California".

At both hearings the Kaiser representative said repeatedly that the only control of pesticides water pollution in the Bay area is to "effectively ban the sale and use of the chlorinated hydrocarbons, specifically DDT".

I caught hearsay that Mr. Walsh, Project Director, State Water Resources Control Board Staff Member, will present evidence at the May 2 hearing, that DDT does not carry through the soil in irrigation water to appear in suspension in drainage ditches.

PCB (Poly chlorinated diphenyls called Arochlors by Monsanto Company, which manufactures three used as plasticisers in rubber -

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none in pesticides) were mentioned several times as bad air and water pollutants. Dr. Risebrough, the University of California DDT critic, has discussed PCB's with Bob Rollins, Chief, Bureau of Chemistry, California Department of Agriculture.

The Sierra Club and the Audubon Society were represented by a lady secretary, who made a joint statement about concern with water quality and, in particular, pesticides.

These hearings were designed only to help the State Water Resources Control Board decide whether the Kaiser Engineers Report should be rejected or recommended wholly or in part, to the legislature. This cannot, of course, occur during the 1969 legislative year.

Shell probably had representatives at one or more of these hearings but they did not make a statement while I was present.

C. O. Barnard

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Executive Secretary

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