

**Attachment A to Resolution No. R19-0xx****Non-Regulatory Amendments to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region* to Administratively Update Chapter 4 “Strategic Planning and Implementation” and Chapter 5 “Plans and Policies”****The following modifications will be applied to Chapter 4, “Strategic Planning and Implementation” of the Basin Plan.**

**Language under “Climate Change Considerations”, will be modified as follows (changes are indicated as underline and strikethrough text):**

Human activities over the past century have resulted in releases of large quantities of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, leading to the onset of significant changes in the earth's climate that will have substantial impacts on water resources, including water quality. More specifically, the various predicted alterations to temperatures and precipitation could significantly affect water supplies in our region as drought periods become more severe and snowpack levels decrease, leading to depleted groundwater levels and decreasing amounts of imported water available to the region.

In addition to water quantity, predicted changes to weather patterns and sea level could also drastically alter hydrological and ecosystem processes in the region. Such impacts could manifest in multiple ways, such as decreases in stream flow, reductions in, and changes to, aquatic habitats, increases in surface water temperature, increases in pollutant levels, sedimentation, and algal growth, and changes in salinity levels and acidification in coastal areas. These impacts could affect many beneficial uses of our waters, including those protecting ecological habitats, recreational uses and commercial practices. Because preserving water quality is essential to protect both human populations and natural ecosystems, and to ensure their prosperity into the future, it is imperative to assess these impacts, and to develop strategies to adapt to the upcoming changes and mitigate their effects on water quality and on the beneficial uses of our waters.

The State's adaptation strategy, [Safeguarding California](#),<sup>1</sup> provides a roadmap for state government action to build climate change resiliency. It identifies seven overarching

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<sup>1</sup> <http://resources.ca.gov/docs/climate/safeguarding/update2018/safeguarding-california-plan-2018-update.pdf>

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principles that represent foundational objectives for California’s approach to climate change adaptation as follows:

- a. Consider climate change in all functions of government;
- b. Partner with California’s most vulnerable populations to increase equity and resilience through investments, planning, research, and education;
- c. Support continued climate research and data tools;
- d. Identify significant and sustainable funding sources to reduce climate risks, harm to people, and disaster spending;
- e. Prioritize natural infrastructure solutions that build climate preparedness, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and produce other multiple benefits;
- f. Promote collaborative adaptation processes with federal, local, tribal, and regional government partners; and
- g. Increase investment in climate change vulnerability assessments of critical built infrastructure systems.

Recognizing the challenges posed by climate change, on March 7, 2017, the State Water Board adopted a “Comprehensive Response to Climate Change” resolution directing a proactive approach to climate change that is integrated in all State and Regional Water Board actions, including drinking water regulation, water quality protection, and financial assistance (State Water Board Resolution No. 2017-0012). The resolution lays the foundation for a robust response to climate change, in part, by encouraging the Regional Water Boards to coordinate with the State Water Board and/or other stakeholders to identify actions and opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve ecosystem resilience, and to account for and/or address climate change related impacts in permitting and planning efforts.

~~on April 29, 2015, Governor Jerry Brown issued Executive Order B-30-15, which directs state agencies to take climate change into account in their planning and investment decisions, guided by the following principles:~~

- ~~▪ Priority should be given to actions that both build climate preparedness and reduce greenhouse gas emissions;~~

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- ~~Where possible, flexible and adaptive approaches should be taken to prepare for uncertain climate impacts;~~
- ~~Actions should protect the state's most vulnerable populations; and~~
- ~~Natural infrastructure solutions should be prioritized~~

~~Regionally, the Regional Los Angeles Water Board is committed to considering climate change as part of its decision making and adhering to the principles outlined above. Towards this end, the development of a climate change strategy was initiated in 2014 with the aim to protect beneficial uses and water quality under a changing climate, while achieving the following goals:~~

- Improve ecosystem resilience;
- Protect and improve the resilience of coastal and inland infrastructure;
- Promote wastewater recycling, stormwater capture and groundwater recharge;
- Promote sustainable watershed management;
- Expand monitoring and research to track the effects of climate change and the effectiveness of mitigation measures; and
- Protect vulnerable communities.

~~In 2015, the Los Angeles Water Board released Part 1 of the an initial “[Los Angeles Region Framework for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation - Current State of Knowledge & Water Quality Regulatory Program Considerations](#)” (Framework) was developed for the region and released in July 2015<sup>2</sup>. This document took a first look at impacts of climate change and sea level rise on water supply and water quality for various waterbody types in the region, as well as through the lenses of the Los Angeles Water Board’s programs, and began a dialogue on issues that would need to be considered and addressed over time. In addition, a [web page](#) dedicated to climate change was created on the Regional~~

<sup>2</sup>~~[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/climate\\_change/docs/2015/ClimateChangeFrameworkforClimateChangeAdaptation-Final7-20-2015.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/climate_change/docs/2015/ClimateChangeFrameworkforClimateChangeAdaptation-Final7-20-2015.pdf)~~

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Water Board website<sup>3</sup>, which contains the framework and other pertinent information, as well as a link to a web page that summarizes work by the Regional Water Board that was expedited in response to drought.

Part 1 of the Framework was followed in May 2018 by the Los Angeles Water Board’s adoption of “A Resolution to Prioritize Actions to Adapt and Mitigate the Impacts of Climate Change on the Los Angeles Region’s Water Resources and Associated Beneficial Uses” (Resolution No. R18-004).<sup>4</sup> The objectives of the resolution were:

- To acknowledge the need to adapt to and where possible mitigate the impacts of climate change in various Los Angeles Water Board programs/actions;
- To briefly summarize the actions the Los Angeles Water Board had already begun to take in some program areas; and
- To begin to identify some future actions that the Los Angeles Water Board can take moving forward.

Following adoption of the resolution, and building on Part 1 of the Framework, Part 2 “Potential Regulatory Adaptation and Mitigation Measures,”<sup>5</sup> was developed and released in April 2019. This document identifies specific challenges that will likely be caused by climate change within the activities of each of the Los Angeles Water Board’s programs and offers a menu of potential actions to address those, including regulatory actions, monitoring and research needs, areas of possible collaboration, and environmental justice considerations.

Further efforts to address climate change will be pursued in conjunction with stakeholders and other regulatory agencies, and will include the consideration of research, monitoring,

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/climate\\_change/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/climate_change/index.shtml)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board\\_decisions/basin\\_plan\\_amendments/technical\\_documents/130\\_new/ResolutionNoR18-004.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_decisions/basin_plan_amendments/technical_documents/130_new/ResolutionNoR18-004.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board\\_decisions/basin\\_plan\\_amendments/technical\\_documents/130\\_new/ResolutionNoR18-004.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_decisions/basin_plan_amendments/technical_documents/130_new/ResolutionNoR18-004.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/climate\\_change/docs/2019/FrameworkPart2-PotentialRegulatoryAdaptation\\_MitigationMeasures-final.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/climate_change/docs/2019/FrameworkPart2-PotentialRegulatoryAdaptation_MitigationMeasures-final.pdf)

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and other contract needs, as well as the development of climate change provisions in the Regional-Los Angeles Water Board’s regulatory actions. Results of such efforts and any additional information will be made available on the Regional-Los Angeles Water Board’s website, where a [web page](#) dedicated to climate change has been created.<sup>6</sup> The page contains the resolution, Parts 1 and 2 of the Framework, and other pertinent information as well as a link to a web page that summarizes work by the Los Angeles Water Board that was expedited in response to drought.

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<sup>6</sup> [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/climate\\_change/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/climate_change/index.shtml)