STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2022-0014

APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SANTA ANA RIVER BASIN TO REVISE AND UPDATE THE TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS AND NITROGEN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (TDS/N MANAGEMENT PROGRAM)

WHEREAS:

- 1. On December 10, 2021, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Water Board) adopted <u>Resolution R8-2021-0025</u>, an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan amendment) to revise and update the total dissolved solids and nitrogen management program (TDS/N management program). The amendment would update the TDS and total inorganic nitrogen (TIN) wasteload allocations (WLAs) for the wastewater treatment plants that discharge to the Santa Ana River and its tributaries, and revise the regional groundwater and surface water monitoring programs associated with the TDS/N Management Plan.
- 2. The Santa Ana Water Board found that the analysis contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) "Substitute Environmental Documents" for the proposed Basin Plan amendment, including the CEQA Checklist, the final staff report entitled, "Consideration of approval of a resolution to approve an amendment to the water quality control plan for the Santa Ana Region (Basin Plan) to Update the Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and Total Inorganic Nitrogen (TIN) Waste Load Allocations for Wastewater Treatment Plants that Discharge to the Santa Ana Water River and its Tributaries, and to Revise the Regional Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring Plans Associated with the TDS and Nitrogen Management Plan," and the responses to comments complies with the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) regulations for the implementation of CEQA, as set forth in the California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3775 through 3781. The State Water Board has reviewed the Substitute Environmental Documents for the Basin Plan amendment and concurs with Santa Ana Water Board's findings and determinations.
- 3. The Santa Ana Water Board also adopted the Basin Plan amendment pursuant to the "Necessity" standard of the Administrative Procedures Act, Government Code section 11353, subdivision (b).
- 4. The Santa Ana Water Board found the Basin Plan amendment is consistent with the Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California (State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16) and the federal Antidegradation Policy (40 C.F.R. § 131.12), in that it does not allow degradation of water quality, but requires restoration of water quality and attainment of water quality standards.

- 5. The State Water Board finds that the Basin Plan amendment is in conformance with Water Code section 13240, which specifies that regional water quality control boards may revise basin plans, and section 13242, which requires a program of implementation for achieving water quality objective.
- A Basin Plan amendment does not become effective until approved by the State Water Board and until the regulatory provisions are approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

- 1. Approves the Basin Plan amendment adopted under Santa Ana Regional Water Board Resolution R8-2021-0025.
- 2. Authorizes and directs the Executive Director or designee to submit the Basin Plan amendment adopted under Santa Ana Regional Water Board Resolution R8-2021-0025 to OAL for approval of the regulatory provisions.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Clerk to the Board does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on May 10, 2022.

AYE: Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel

Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo Board Member Sean Maguire Board Member Laurel Firestone Board Member Nichole Morgan

NAY: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

Jeanine Townsend

Clerk to the Board