

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – LOS ANGELES WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
JULY 21, 2015**

ITEM 2

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGION TO INCORPORATE STAKEHOLDER-PROPOSED GROUNDWATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR SALTS AND NUTRIENTS IN THE CENTRAL AND WEST COAST GROUNDWATER BASINS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

DISCUSSION

On February 12, 2015 the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) adopted [Resolution No. R15-001](#). This Basin Plan amendment incorporates stakeholder-proposed groundwater quality management measures for the Central and West Coast groundwater basins of Los Angeles County into the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan). These groundwater quality management measures were developed by stakeholders as part of the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for the Central Basin and West Coast Basin. Such plans are a requirement of State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy and are intended to maintain the beneficial uses of groundwater while increasing recycled water use throughout the state.

Background

In keeping with the goal of increasing sustainable local water supplies throughout the state, the State Water Board adopted a Recycled Water Policy (Policy) in 2009 to increase the beneficial use of recycled water from municipal wastewater sources in a manner that implements state and federal water quality laws. This Policy recognizes the potential for increased salt and nutrient loads to groundwater basins with increasing recycled water use, and therefore requires the management of these parameters on a basin-wide scale – through the development of Salt and Nutrient Management Plans (SNMPs) for every basin/sub-basin in the state. These SNMPs are to be funded and developed by local water and wastewater entities, together with local salt/nutrient contributing stakeholders with participation by Regional Water Board staff.

Salt and Nutrient Management Measures for the Central and West Coast Groundwater Basins

The Central Basin and West Coast Basin are located in southern Los Angeles County and underlie an area of 420 square miles that includes 43 cities. These basins provide 40 percent of the water supply used in the area. The basins are intensively managed by the Water Replenishment District of Southern California through artificial groundwater recharge by way of spreading grounds, management of seawater intrusion barriers, and the operation of de-salters to address the saline plume caused by historical over-pumping. Recycled water is used primarily for groundwater recharge as well as for landscape irrigation and industrial and commercial process water. Sources of water and salts and nutrients to the basins include surface water/stormwater, imported water, groundwater, and recycled water.

Aside from the areas impacted by seawater intrusion, salt and nutrient levels in most landward parts of the basins are not currently exceeding the groundwater quality objectives in the Basin Plan. The SNMP for the Central Basin and West Coast Basin was developed by stakeholders with the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) as the lead agency. Funding partners for this effort included Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, West Basin Municipal Water District, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.

The SNMP contains all applicable elements prescribed by the Recycled Water Policy: (i) Source identification/source loading and assimilative capacity estimates; (ii) Implementation measures; (iii) Consideration of water recycling/stormwater recharge/use; (iv) Anti-degradation analyses; and (v) Development of a basin-wide monitoring plan.

The salt and nutrient management strategies outlined in the SNMP are geared toward improving groundwater quality in impaired areas and maintaining groundwater quality below water quality objectives in other areas. The CEQA analysis conducted for the management measures outlined in the SNMP resulted in a finding of less than significant impacts with mitigation incorporated.

These salt and nutrient management measures are contained in a new chapter in the Basin Plan: Chapter 8 “Groundwater Quality Management – Sustainability and Basin-specific Protection of Groundwater”. This chapter will contain similar management measures for other groundwater basins in the Los Angeles Region, as well as any future implementation provisions pertaining to groundwater quality management that result from State or Regional Water Board policies.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board approve the amendment to the Basin Plan to incorporate groundwater quality management measures for salts and nutrients in the Central and West Coast groundwater basins into the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region as adopted by Los Angeles Water Board Resolution No. R15-001?

FISCAL IMPACT

Los Angeles Water Board and State Water Board staff work associated with or resulting from this action will be addressed with existing and future budgeted resources.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

Approval of Los Angeles Water Board Resolution No. R15-001 will amend the Los Angeles Water Board’s Basin Plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board:

1. Approve the Basin Plan amendments adopted under Los Angeles Water Board Resolution No. R15-001.

2. Authorize and direct the Executive Director or designee to submit the Basin Plan amendments adopted under Los Angeles Water Board Resolution No. R15-001 to the OAL for approval.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal 4 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to comprehensively address water quality protection and restoration, and the relationship between water supply and water quality ...throughout California's water planning process.

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STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2015-

APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGION TO INCORPORATE STAKEHOLDER-PROPOSED GROUNDWATER QUALITY CONTROL MEASURES FOR SALTS AND NUTRIENTS IN THE CENTRAL AND WEST COAST GROUNDWATER BASINS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

WHEREAS:

1. On February 12, 2015 the Regional Water Quality Control Board for the Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board) adopted [Resolution No. R15-001](#). This amendment incorporates stakeholder-proposed groundwater quality management measures for salts and nutrients in the Central and West Coast groundwater basins into the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan). These groundwater quality management measures were developed by stakeholders as part of the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for the Central Basin and West Coast Basin in Los Angeles County. Such plans are a requirement of the State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy and are intended to maintain the beneficial uses of groundwater while increasing recycled water use throughout the state.
2. The Los Angeles 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 Salt and Nutrient Management Plan, and the Staff Memorandum for this amendment, complies with the requirements of the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board's) certified regulatory process, as set forth in the California Code of Regulations, Title 23, section 3775 et seq. The State Board had reviewed the Substitute Environmental Documents for the Basin Plan amendment and concurs with the Los Angeles Water Board's findings and determinations, including the Statement of Overriding Considerations.
3. This Basin Plan amendment meets the "necessity" standard of the California Administrative Procedures Act, Government Code section 11353(b), because the Recycled Water Policy requires that Regional Water Boards incorporate salt and nutrient management measures for groundwater basins into their respective basin plans within one year of the receipt of stakeholder developed salt and nutrient management plans. Also, Water Code section 13240 requires each regional water board's basin plan to conform with any State policy for water quality control.
4. The proposed management strategies for salt and nutrients are geared toward improving groundwater quality in impaired areas and maintaining high groundwater quality below water quality objectives in other areas, while providing the benefit of reduced reliance on imported water supplies. Therefore, the amendment is consistent with State Water Board [Resolution No. 68-16](#), and is also consistent with the policy of the State, established in California Water Code section 106.3 that everyone has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water.
5. This Basin Plan amendment does not become effective until approved by the State Water Board and the Office of Administrative Law (OAL).

D R A F T

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Approves the Basin Plan amendment adopted under Los Angeles Water Board Resolution No. R015-001.
2. Authorizes and directs the Executive Director or designee to submit the Basin Plan amendment adopted under Los Angeles Water Board Resolution No. R15-001 to OAL for approval.

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 July 21, 2015.

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board