STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Ben Livsey)
MEETING DATE: December 10, 2014

ITEM: **6**

SUBJECT: **Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District, Concurrence with Findings of the Sonoma Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan—** Hearing to Consider Adoption of Tentative Resolution

DISCUSSION: The Tentative Resolution (Appendix A) would recognize the merits of the Sonoma Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (Sonoma Valley Plan) and support efforts to increase the use of recycled water while protecting and enhancing groundwater resources. The Staff Report (Appendix B) provides details on the technical analysis supporting the Sonoma Valley Plan and the findings in the Tentative Resolution.

The State Board's Recycled Water Policy, as amended in 2013, calls for local water and wastewater entities, together with local salt and nutrient contributing stakeholders, to develop salt and nutrient management plans for each groundwater basin/subbasin in California to assess water quality and evaluate strategies for complying with salt and nutrient water quality objectives. The Sonoma Valley Plan is the first salt and nutrient management plan to be completed in our Region.

The Sonoma Valley Plan, prepared by the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District (District), includes an analysis demonstrating that, if recycled water use increases as projected (from the 2013 level of 1,100 acre feet up to 4,100 acre-feet per year by 2035), the high quality groundwater in the Sonoma Valley Subbasin will be maintained and protected. For modeling and analysis purposes, the Sonoma Valley Subbasin was subdivided into a southern Baylands Area (containing historical brackish groundwater) and an Inland Area. The analysis of future water quality for the Inland Area indicates stable salt and nutrient trends due to mountain front and precipitation recharge with very low salt and nutrient concentrations, minimal loading from land sources, and low volume and high quality recycled water use for irrigation. As a result, the Sonoma Valley Plan does not include any new implementation measures beyond existing best management practices.

One area of interest, the Baylands Area along the margin of San Pablo Bay has not historically met water quality objectives for total dissolved solids due to saltwater intrusion. The intrusion of brackish groundwater has advanced over time and may be attributed to groundwater pumping. The Sonoma Valley Plan includes a groundwater monitoring program to

evaluate water quality in this area. The groundwater monitoring program will continue to characterize the extent of the brackish groundwater area, and Board staff will evaluate the need for additional implementation actions. The District is committed to reporting monitoring results to the Board every three years.

We received one comment during the 30-day comment period on the draft resolution that closed November 9, 2014. Staff's response to the email comment from Fred Allebach (a citizen) is included in Appendix C. Mr. Allebach expressed concern about the quality of groundwater with respect to arsenic and boron. While we understand that arsenic and boron can be concerns for water quality, we do not expect recycled water use to increase levels of these constituents in groundwater. The Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program will provide an adequate means of tracking water quality trends and inform the need for future implementation actions, if needed.

RECOMMEN-DATION: Adoption of the Tentative Resolution

CIWQS PLACE ID: 806835

APPENDICES:
A. Tentative Resolution
B. Staff Report
C. Response to Written Comment