

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – SANTA ANA REGIONAL WATER BOARD  
JULY 15, 2014**

**ITEM 3**

**SUBJECT**

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SANTA ANA REGION TO REVISE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE SALT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND TO INCORPORATE THE STATEWIDE ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS POLICY.

**DISCUSSION**

On January 22, 2004, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Water Board) adopted [Resolution R8-2004-0001](#), which amended the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (Basin Plan) to incorporate groundwater management zones, total dissolved solids (TDS) and nitrate-nitrogen objectives for the management zones, TDS and nitrogen wasteload allocations for discharges of recycled water to the Santa Ana River and its tributaries, and a region-wide subsurface nitrogen loss coefficient that is applied in setting effluent limitations for wastewater discharges that affect groundwater. To accommodate recycled water projects in the Region, alternative "maximum benefit" TDS and nitrate-nitrogen water quality objectives were also established for certain groundwater management zones, including the Yucaipa, San Timoteo and Beaumont groundwater management zones. Pursuant to the state antidegradation Policy ([Resolution No. 68-16](#)), the application of these less stringent objectives is contingent on implementation of specific commitments by those who requested the objectives. These include commitments to implement basin-wide water supply and water quality management programs, including salt removal projects, monitoring programs and conjunctive use programs. The Santa Ana Water Board found that implementation of these commitments would assure that beneficial uses will be protected and that water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the state will be maintained.

Federal and state laws require the Regional Water Board to review and update the Basin Plan periodically. Further, the Basin Plan amendments approved under Resolution No. R8-2004-0001 included requirements for data collection and analysis and periodic review of the Salt Management Plan based on those data and analyses. As a result of recent review, the Santa Ana Water Board adopted [Resolution No. R8-2014-0005](#) on April 25, 2014, approving amendments to the Basin Plan that revise the Implementation Chapter of the Basin Plan (Chapter 5) to reflect updated information and to incorporate certain revised salt management strategies, including the following: an update of the Basin Plan language related to TDS and nitrate-nitrogen assimilative capacity findings; incorporation of a nitrogen loss coefficient specific to the San Jacinto area groundwater management zones; and, updates to the Maximum Benefit programs for the Yucaipa, San Timoteo and Beaumont Management Zones.

On June 19, 2012, the State Water Board approved a water quality control policy for siting, design, operation, and maintenance of onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS Policy). Pursuant to the OWTS Policy, the amendments adopted under Resolution No. R8-2014-0005 incorporates the OWTS Policy into the Santa Ana Water Board's Basin Plan (Chapter 2 – Plans and Policy Chapter).

## **POLICY ISSUE**

Should the State Water Board approve the amendments to the Basin Plan to incorporate updates to the Salt Management Plan and to incorporate the OWTS Policy?

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Santa Ana Water Board and State Water Board staff work associated with or resulting from this action will be addressed with existing and future budgeted resources. The approval of these Basin Plan amendments should not significantly add or detract from current workloads.

## **REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

Yes, approval of this resolution will amend the Santa Ana Water Board's Basin Plan.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the State Water Board:

1. Approve the amendments to the Basin Plan adopted under the Santa Ana Water Board's Resolution No. R8-2014-0005.
2. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to submit the amendments adopted under the Santa Ana Water Board's Resolution No. R8-2014-0005 to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for approval.

State Water Board action will amend an existing Salt Management Plan that implements Water Boards Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012. The Salt Management Plan implements strategies to improve and protect groundwater quality in high use basins by 2030. In particular, approval of amendment to the existing Salt Management Plan will continue to enable the Water Boards to fulfill Objective 2.1: to implement an integrated groundwater protection approach by 2012 to improve and protect groundwater in high-use basins that (a) evaluates and regulates activities that impact or have the potential to impact beneficial uses, (b) recognizes the effects of groundwater and surface water interactions on groundwater quality and quantity, and (c) encourages and facilitates local management of groundwater resources.

The Santa Ana Water Board's Salt Management Plan revision is also consistent with Goal 3.2 of the Strategic Plan Update. The Salt Management Plan amendments promote the use of recycled water and the reuse of local stormwater to enhance groundwater resources.

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## STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2014-

TO AMEND THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SANTA ANA REGION TO REVISE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE SALT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND TO INCORPORATE THE STATEWIDE ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS POLICY

### WHEREAS:

1. On April 25, 2014, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Water Board) adopted [Resolution No. R8-2014-0005](#), amending the Basin Plan to incorporate updates to the Region's Salt Management Plan and to incorporate the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy.
2. The Santa Ana Water Board found that the revised Salt Management Plan is consistent with the State Water Board [Resolution No. 68-16](#) because present and anticipated beneficial uses will continue to be protected, best practicable treatment or control of waste discharges will continue to be in place, and the highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the state will be maintained.
3. The Santa Ana Water Board found that the amendments do not contain scientific elements. Therefore, no external scientific peer review of the proposed revisions was conducted.
4. Extensive analysis of the Salt Management Plan pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was conducted as part of the consideration of 2004 Salt Management Plan Basin Plan Amendment. Potential environmental impacts were evaluated; the revisions to the Salt Management Plan would have no material direct or indirect adverse effects on the environment. The State Water Board affirms this determination.
5. The State Water Board finds that, in amending the Basin Plan, the Santa Ana Water Board complied with the requirements set forth in sections 13141, 13240, 13242, and 13245 of the Water Code. The State Water Board also finds that the regulatory action meets the "necessity" standard of the Administrative Procedures Act, Government Code section 11353, Subdivision (b).
6. The 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 amendment to the Basin Plan as adopted by Santa Ana Water Board Resolution No. R8-2014-0005.

# **D R A F T**

2. Authorizes the Executive Director or designee to submit the amendment adopted by Santa Ana Water Board Resolution No. R8-2014-0005 to the OAL to approve 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 July 15, 2014.

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Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board