

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

RESOLUTION NO. R5-2008-
IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPING A
GROUNDWATER STRATEGY FOR THE
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Regional Water Board) finds that:

1. California is facing the most significant water crisis in its history. After experiencing two years of drought and the driest spring in recorded history, water reserves are extremely low. With the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem near collapse, court-ordered restrictions on water deliveries from the Delta have reduced supplies from the state's two largest water systems by twenty to thirty percent.
2. The *California Water Plan Update 2005* provides recommendations for the next 25 years directed at decision-makers throughout California, the executive and legislative branches of State Government, and DWR and other State agencies. Update 2009 updates and expands many of the features introduced in Update 2005.
3. The *California Water Plan Update 2005* recommended that California must: diversify regional water portfolios; invest in reliable, high quality, sustainable, and affordable water conservation; improve water management efficiency, and develop water supplies to protect public health, and to improve California's economy, environment, and standard of living.
4. The Central Valley Region has the second largest contiguous groundwater basin in the United States, and the largest groundwater basin in California.
5. Groundwater accounts for almost 50 percent of the domestic (private) and public drinking-water supply in the Central Valley.
6. Over 18% of State's population is within Central Valley and the expected population growth within the State over the next decade/century is focused in the Central Valley. Population in the Valley is anticipated to increase 39% by the year 2020
7. The Central Valley is home to a multi-billion dollar agriculture industry with over 80% of irrigated agricultural lands and over 80% of all the dairies in the State located in the valley. Agriculture has been the dominant industry in the valley for hundreds of years and accounted for 57% of the \$6.5 billion in sales of all agricultural products in California in 2002.
8. Nearly 50 percent of all facilities in California that are regulated for discharges to land, and over 42 percent of all septic systems in California are situated in the Central Valley Region.

9. Some groundwater supplies throughout the Central Valley have been degraded or polluted which, in part, may be due to historical practices of the agricultural and dairy industries, failing septic systems, and other land discharges.
10. High concentrations of nitrates in groundwater are a serious public health problem. Recent groundwater monitoring results from the State Board's groundwater monitoring program found private drinking water wells sampled exceeded Department of Public Health (DPH) maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for nitrates.
11. The *California Water Plan Update 2005* established a recommendation that California must remediate surface water and groundwater contaminants. State government must lead an effort with local agencies and governments to remediate the causes and effects of contamination of surface water and groundwater quality.
12. The Water Quality Control Plans for the Sacramento River, San Joaquin River, and Tulare Lake basins generally designate groundwater as being beneficial to use as municipal and domestic supply (MUN), agricultural supply (AGR), industrial service supply (IND), and industrial process supply (PRO), unless specifically exempted from the uses.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Regional Water Board:

1. Directs staff to work with stakeholders and interested persons, including the Department of Public Health and the Department of Water Resources, along with local partners, nonprofit organizations, environmental, and environmental justice groups to develop a Groundwater Strategy to assure comprehensive, consistent, and coordinated protection of the beneficial uses of groundwater throughout the region, and particularly within the Tulare Lake Basin, and to ensure a sustainable, high quality water supply for the Central Valley.
2. Requests that a final Groundwater Strategy that specifies regulatory and non-regulatory regulatory activities and solutions and provides a workplan will be presented for Regional Water Board consideration by June 2009.

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on _____ 2008.

PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer