

## 5. PLANS AND POLICIES

### INTRODUCTION

The Regional Water Board is required to implement the provisions of several statewide plans and policies. These are listed below, and full copies are included in the Appendix Section of this Plan, unless otherwise indicated.

### STATE WATER BOARD PLANS

#### Thermal Plan

The "Water Quality Control Plan for the Control of Temperature in the Coastal and Interstate Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California" adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board on May 18, 1972, specifies water quality objectives, effluent quality limits, and discharge prohibitions related to thermal characteristics of interstate waters and waste discharges.

#### Ocean Plan

The "Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California" was adopted by the State Water Board on July 6, 1972 and revised in 1978, 1983, 1988, and 1990. This plan establishes beneficial uses and water quality objectives for waters of the Pacific Ocean adjacent to the California Coast outside of enclosed bays, estuaries, and coastal lagoons. Also, the Ocean Plan prescribes effluent quality requirements and management principles for waste discharges and specifies certain waste discharge prohibitions.

The Ocean Plan also provides that the State Water Board shall designate Areas of Special Biological Significance and requires wastes to be discharged at locations which will assure maintenance of natural water quality conditions in these areas.

#### Nonpoint Source Management Plan

On November 15, 1988, the State Water Board adopted the Nonpoint Source Management Plan pursuant to Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. This plan establishes the framework for statewide nonpoint source activities. The plan identifies nonpoint source

control programs and milestones for their accomplishment. The plan emphasizes cooperation

with local governments and other agencies to promote the voluntary implementation of Best Management Practices and remedial projects in a three-tiered approach: 1) voluntary implementation, 2) regulatory-based encouragement, and 3) effluent limitations. A copy of the Nonpoint Source Management Plan is not included in the Appendix Section of this Plan. A copy of the Nonpoint Source Management Plan may be requested by contacting the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

### STATE WATER BOARD POLICIES

#### Policy With Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California (Resolution No. 68-16)

On October 28, 1968, the State Water Board adopted Resolution No. 68-16, "Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California". While requiring the continued maintenance of existing high quality waters, the policy provides conditions under which a change in water quality is allowable. A change must:

- be consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the state;
- not unreasonably affect present and anticipated beneficial uses of water; and
- not result in water quality less than that prescribed in water quality control plans or policies.

#### Sources of Drinking Water Policy (Resolution No. 88-63)

On May 19, 1988, the State Water Board adopted Resolution No. 88-63, a Policy Entitled "Sources of Drinking Water". This policy was set forth to provide full protection of current and potential sources of drinking water as well as realistic standards for the waters of the State. The policy states that all surface

waters and ground waters are to be considered suitable or potentially suitable, for municipal or domestic water supply, and should be so designated by the regional water boards, with specific exceptions. The policy affirms the authority of the regional water boards to amend the use designations contained in

their basin plans, as long as consistency with all applicable regulations adopted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is maintained.

### **Bays and Estuaries Policy**

The "Water Quality Control Policy for the Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California" adopted by the State Water Board on May 16, 1974, provides water quality principles and guidelines for the prevention of water quality degradation and to protect the beneficial uses of waters. Decisions by the Regional Water Board are required to be consistent with the provisions of this policy. This policy does not apply to wastes from vessels or land runoff except as specifically indicated for siltation and combined sewer flows.

### **Power Plant Cooling Policy**

The "Water Quality Control Policy on the Use and Disposal of Inland Waters Used for Power Plant Cooling" was adopted by the State Water Board on June 19, 1975. This policy describes the State Water

Board's position on power plant cooling, specifying that fresh inland waters should be used for cooling only when other alternatives are environmentally undesirable or economically unsound.

### **Reclamation Policy**

On January 6, 1977, the State Water Board adopted Resolution No. 77-1, "Policy with Respect to Water Reclamation in California". This policy requires the regional water boards to conduct reclamation surveys and specifies reclamation actions to be implemented by the State and regional water boards as well as other agencies.

### **Shredder Waste Disposal Policy**

On March 19, 1987, the State Water Board adopted Resolution No. 87-22, "Policy on the Disposal of Shredder Waste". This policy describes specific conditions to be enforced by the Regional Water Board with regards to disposal of mechanically destructed car bodies, old appliances, or other similar castoffs at landfills.

