

ITEM: 11

SUBJECT: Groundwater Quality Protection Strategy For The Central Valley Region, a "Roadmap"

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of a Resolution Approving the Groundwater Quality Protection Strategy For The Central Valley Region, a "Roadmap"*

BACKGROUND: The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) recognizes the critical importance of groundwater quality. The Central Valley Water Board is committed to ongoing programs as well as coordination with other agencies and all stakeholders with an interest in groundwater quality protection. The Central Valley Water Board adopted Resolution R5-2008-0181 in support of developing a Groundwater Quality Protection Strategy for the Central Valley Region through an active stakeholder process.

Developing a Groundwater Quality Protection Strategy for the Central Valley Region will serve as a Roadmap. The Roadmap is not initiating any new regulatory programs and is not a policy document. The intent of developing the Roadmap is to provide a long range planning document that defines the regulatory programs to be enhanced, and identify ways to expand on all partnering opportunities with other federal, state, and local agencies and/or organizations to protect groundwater quality.

In August 2009, four public workshops were held to solicit information from stakeholders on groundwater quality protection concerns. Workshops were attended by stakeholders representing a variety of interests including: food processors, water purveyors, irrigation districts, conservation districts, rural communities, agricultural interests, federal and state agencies, cities, counties, elected officials, environmental groups, non-profit organizations, and other interested parties.

Following the August 2009 public workshops, Central Valley Water Board staff compiled comments and found that there were several recurrent ideas. Through evaluation of the existing Groundwater Quality Protection Programs and Stakeholders input, the draft Roadmap was developed and posted for public review June 2010.

In July 2010, Central Valley Water Board staff conducted four public workshops to solicit feedback on the Draft Roadmap. Both oral and written comments were considered in revisions incorporated into the August 2010 Draft Roadmap that is presented today.

The resolution would approve the August 2010 Groundwater

Quality Protection Strategy for the Central Valley recognizing that all high priority actions cannot be implemented with existing resources. If approved, the resolution would direct staff to develop workplan(s) for highest priorities, and continue to pursue new, and improve existing, partnering opportunities to leverage existing resources and avoid duplication of efforts.

The Roadmap will be re-evaluated on an annual basis recognizing that as new information is gathered or if priorities change this will be an evolving document.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed Resolution.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

September 22/23 2010
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