

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL  
BOARD, CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

RESOLUTION NO. R5-2017-0116

ADOPTING THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGION CLIMATE  
CHANGE WORK PLAN

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

1. Sharp rises in the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases over the last century and a half, due to human activity, have led to an increase in global average temperature, and associated climate change.
2. Climate change is affecting and will affect the Central Valley of California in myriad ways. Current and future impacts include increasing frequency of extreme weather events, and prolonged fire seasons with larger and more intense fires. Changes in hydrology include more precipitation falling as rain versus snow, more extreme storm events, declining snowpack, and changes in the timing and volume of peak runoff. Vulnerabilities of water resources include, but are not limited to, subsidence, erosion, flooding, related risks to water and wastewater infrastructure and operations, and reduced groundwater availability coupled with the potential for concentrating groundwater pollutants.
3. The risks of abrupt or irreversible changes increase as the magnitude of the warming increases, and the California Climate Change Assessments have provided a strong foundation of research addressing the impacts of climate change on the state, as well as potential response strategies.
4. Mitigation, in the context of climate change, refers to actions taken to reduce the concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
5. Adaptation, in the context of climate change, refers to actions taken to build resilience, and to adjust to the impacts of climate change on society and the environment. Improved coordination, implementation, and integration of adaptation planning efforts and funding of the state's climate policies can directly protect the state's natural and built infrastructure, communities, environmental quality, public health, safety and security, natural resources, and economy from the unavoidable impacts of climate change.
6. Assembly Bill 32, The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, requires all state agencies to consider and implement strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through 2020. Senate Bill 32 sets the state on the path for additional greenhouse gas emission reductions by 2030.
7. To help track, evaluate, and report on the climate change impacts the state is working to address, as well as outcomes of those efforts, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment has developed indicators of climate change in California, including drivers, environmental changes, and impacts of climate change.

8. Many aspects of climate change and associated impacts will continue for centuries, even if anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases are reduced or stopped. Therefore, a principle of the state's adaptation strategy document, Safeguarding California, is to prioritize actions that not only mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, but also help the state prepare for climate change impacts.
9. Executive Order B-30-15 directs the state to continue its rigorous climate change research program focused on understanding the impacts of climate change and how best to prepare and adapt to such impacts.
10. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 provides new authorities for local agencies to directly manage groundwater resources, and requires that local groundwater sustainability plans consider changing conditions over a 50-year planning and implementation period.
11. Resolution R5-2016-0018 provides guidance for adopting the Human Right to Water as a core value in Central Valley Water Board programs and activities.
12. On March 17, 2017 the State Water Resources Control Board (hereafter State Water Board) adopted Resolution No. 2017-0012 which identifies actions that the State Water Board will and Regional Water Quality Control Boards are encouraged to undertake to combat climate change, and provides a framework for the State Water Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards' (hereafter collectively referred to as Water Boards) efforts.
13. The Water Boards have played a collaborative and substantive leadership role in promoting water measures that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to adaptation to the effects of climate change primarily through issuing permits, developing policies and regulations, and providing financing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Central Valley Water Board:

1. Will consider climate change in the all of its water quality programs.
2. Adopts the Central Valley Region Climate Change Work Plan to provide guidance to its programs.
3. Directs Central Valley Water Board staff to bring the Central Valley Region Climate Change Work Plan back to the Central Valley Water Board for revision and reconsideration every five years or sooner if needed.
4. Will consider climate change adaptation priorities during triennial reviews of the two Central Valley water quality control plans (i.e., Basin Plans), which provide the foundation for all Central Valley Water Board regulatory actions.
5. Will build climate change adaptation activities into the yearly work planning for its water quality programs.

6. Directs Central Valley Water Board staff to work with the State Water Board and other relevant agencies to develop robust climate change data collection and modeling efforts relevant to water quality in the Central Valley.
7. Directs Central Valley Water Board staff to collaborate with its stakeholders, the State Water Board, and the other Water Boards in the development of policies and regulations to address the impacts of climate change on water quality, which will include consideration of the holistic effects on the environment.
8. Directs Central Valley Water Board staff to assist the State Water Board and relevant stakeholders in the development of performance measures for the evaluation of the Central Valley Water Board's progress in promoting climate change resiliency.

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 8 December 2017.

Original signed by

---

PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer