

Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region

Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for
the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins
to Edit and Update Language

Response to Comments

The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) provided draft amendments and a staff report dated December 2013 for public comment from 20 December 2013 to 14 February 2014. The following entities submitted written comments during the public comment period:

1. Lysa Voight, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District and Sacramento Area Sewer District
2. Tera Chumley, Senior Management Consultant, Stanislaus County Environmental Review Committee
3. Debbie Webster, Executive Officer, Central Valley Clean Water Association

Following is a summary of the comments and the responses to the comments:

Lysa Voight, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District and Sacramento Area Sewer District

1. Comment.

The discussion regarding incorporation of the Recycled Water Policy on page 17 of the Staff Report appears to indicate that site specific CEQA analysis is necessary for individual projects that will be completed to comply with the salt and nitrate management plan under development by CV-SALTS. This would conflict with the stated goal of CV-SALTS to develop a comprehensive approach for managing salt and nitrates on a regional or water basis rather than through individual recycled water projects. If there is no intent to require individual CEQA analysis for individual projects, then the amendment should be revised to place a hard return after the first sentence as follows:

“In Resolution No. R5-2010-0024, the Central Valley Water Board noted that the CV-SALTS initiative is consistent with the provisions in the Recycled Water Policy to develop salt and nutrient management plans.

When the State Water Board adopted the Recycled Water Policy, the State Water Board found that potential site-specific recycled water project impacts may need to be considered in subsequent environmental analyses performed by lead agencies, pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21159.1, and incorporated mitigation measures that reduced impacts to less than significant levels.”

Response.

The Central Valley Water Board thanks Ms. Voight for providing comments. The Staff Report has been edited as suggested.

Tera Chumley, Senior Management Consultant, Stanislaus County Environmental Review Committee

2. Comment.

The Stanislaus County Environmental Review Committee has no comments at this time.

Response.

The Central Valley Water Board thanks the Stanislaus County Environmental Review Committee for reviewing the proposed amendment.

Debbie Webster, Executive Officer, Central Valley Clean Water Association

3. Comment.

The draft amendment language proposed for pages III-2.00 and IV-16.00 state that “The Regional Water Board will establish compliance schedules consistent with the provisions of the State Water Board’s Compliance Schedule Policy (Resolution 2008-0025).” For the sake of clarity, we recommend that this sentence be revised to state as follows: “The Regional Water Board will establish compliance schedules in NPDES permits consistent with the provisions of the State Water Board’s Compliance Schedule Policy (Resolution 2008-0025).” Although the paragraphs where this sentence appears are specific to NPDES permits, the paragraphs appear in context with a broader policy that applies to actions not solely related to NPDES permits. Accordingly, it is important to provide clarity on this issue.

Response.

The Central Valley Water Board thanks Ms. Webster for providing comments. The proposed amendment has been edited as suggested.

4. Comment.

The Regional Board should consider including language that clarifies that the Regional Board, through Water Code section 13263, also maintains discretion to adopt compliance schedules in waste discharge requirements. The Basin Plan currently makes no reference to this discretion for non-NPDES permits.

Response.

An additional sentence has been added to the proposed amendment to reference Water Code section 13263 for establishing time schedules in waste discharge requirements.