

**Groundwater  
Beneficial Use  
Hodson/Littlejohns  
Fault Zone  
Salt Spring Valley**

Early Public Consultation/  
Scoping Meeting  
23 June 2011



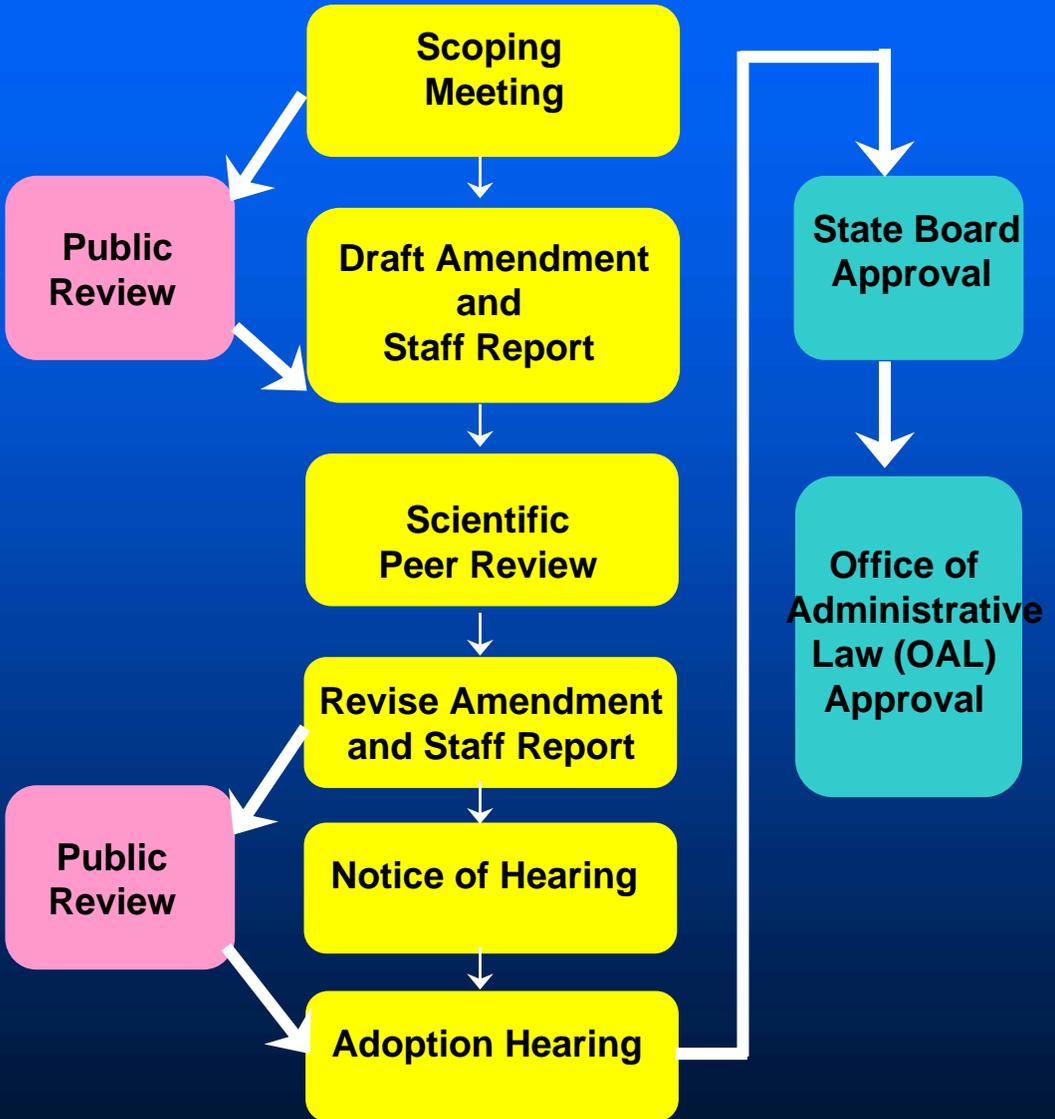
# Meeting Goals

- Public Input
  - Environmental Impacts
  - Other Alternatives
- Regulatory Process
- Project Area
- Proposed Project and Possible Alternatives
- Next Steps and Discussion

# Basin Plan

- California Water Code
- Regulatory Document
- Beneficial Uses
  - Groundwater
  - MUN, AGR, IND, PRO
- Water Quality Objectives
  - Protect beneficial use
  - Prevent nuisance
- Implementation Program

# Basin Planning Steps



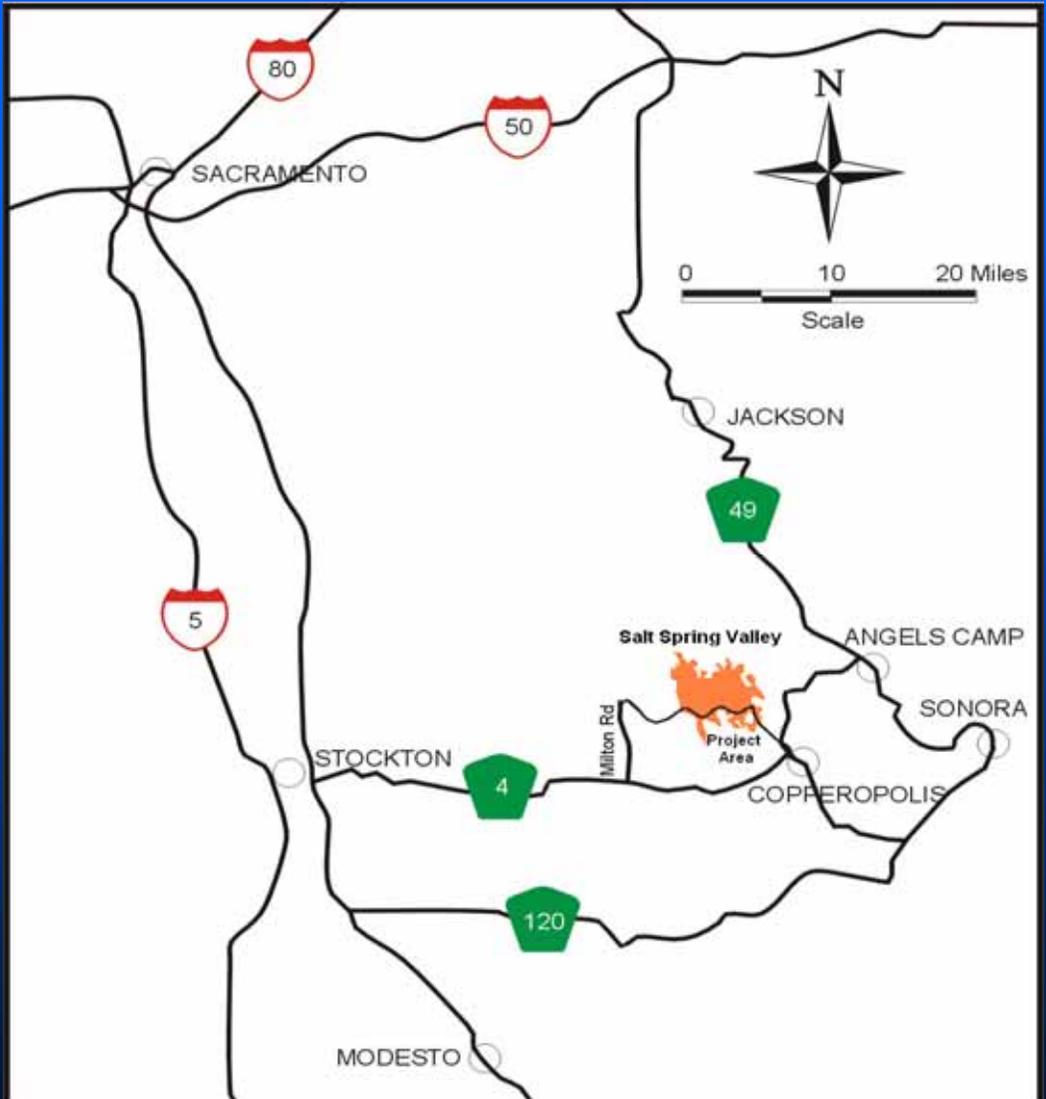
# Environmental Checklist

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture & Forest Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology & Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Land Use & Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population & Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities & Service Systems

# State Water Board Direction

- De-designate Beneficial Use
- Establish Containment Zone

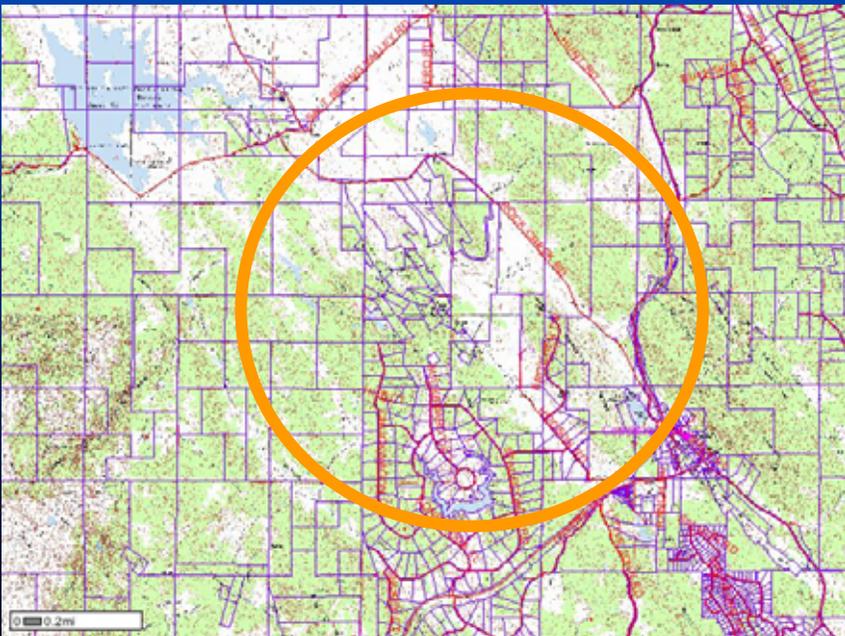
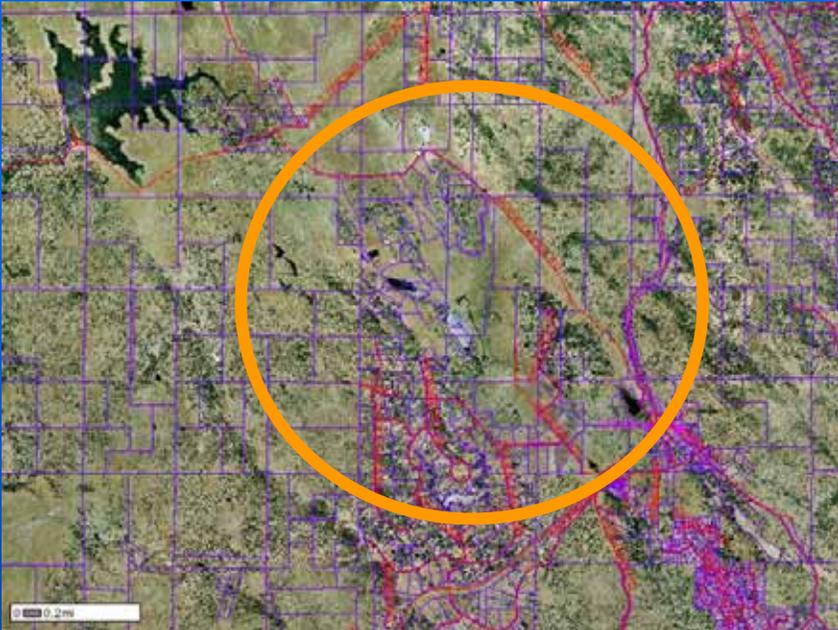
# Project Area Location



# Salt Spring Valley



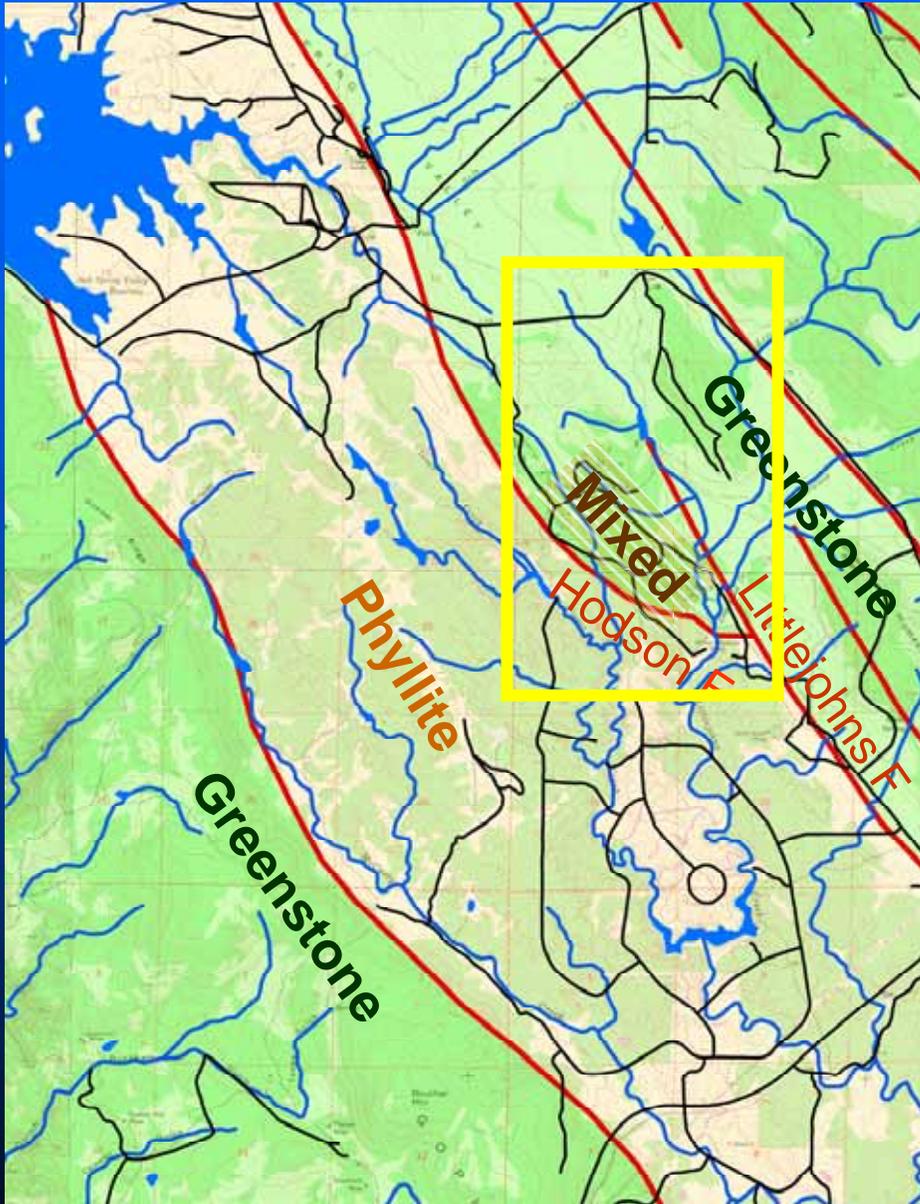
# Project Area Vicinity



# Land Use



# Project Area Geology



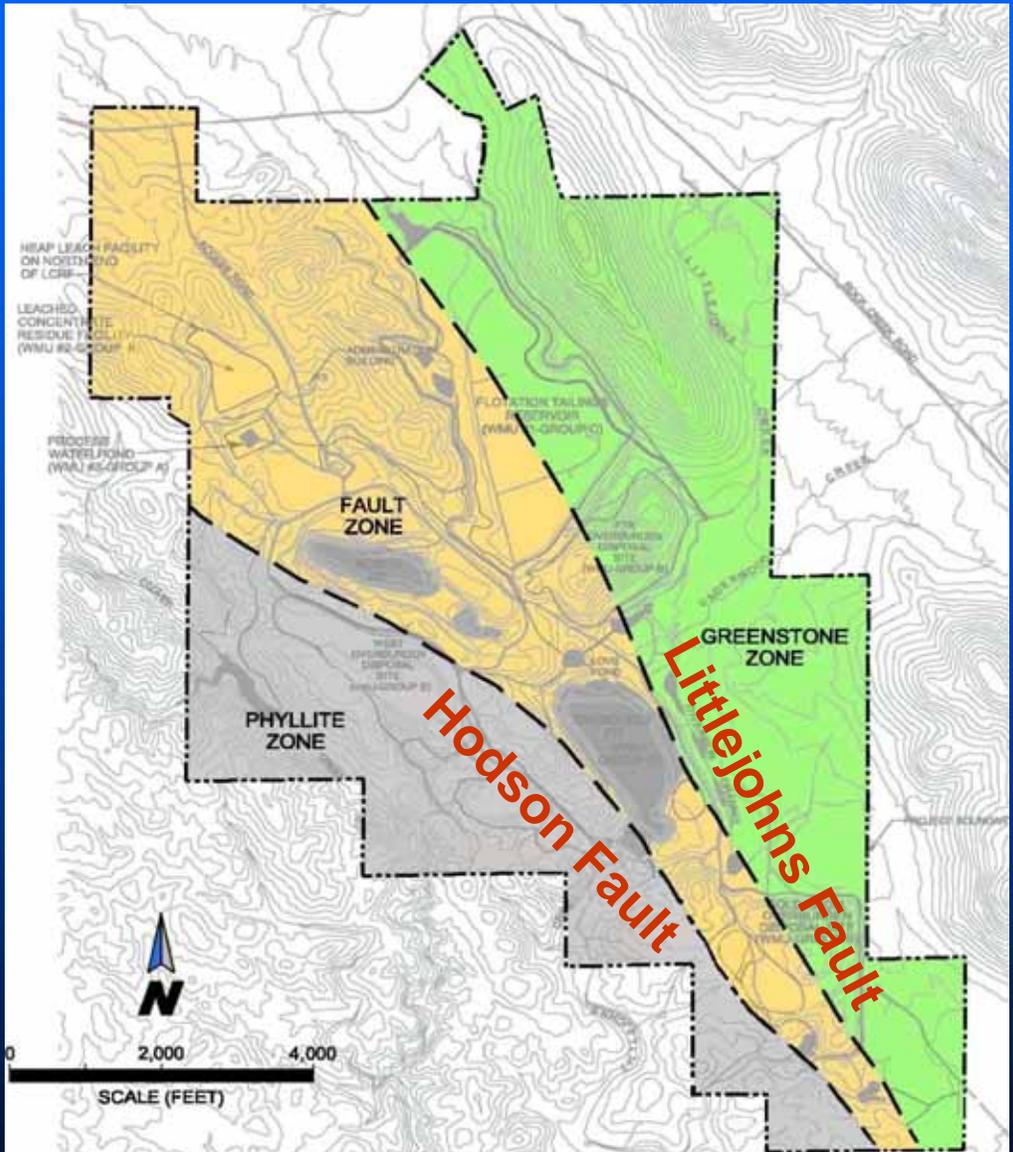
# Greenstone & Phyllite



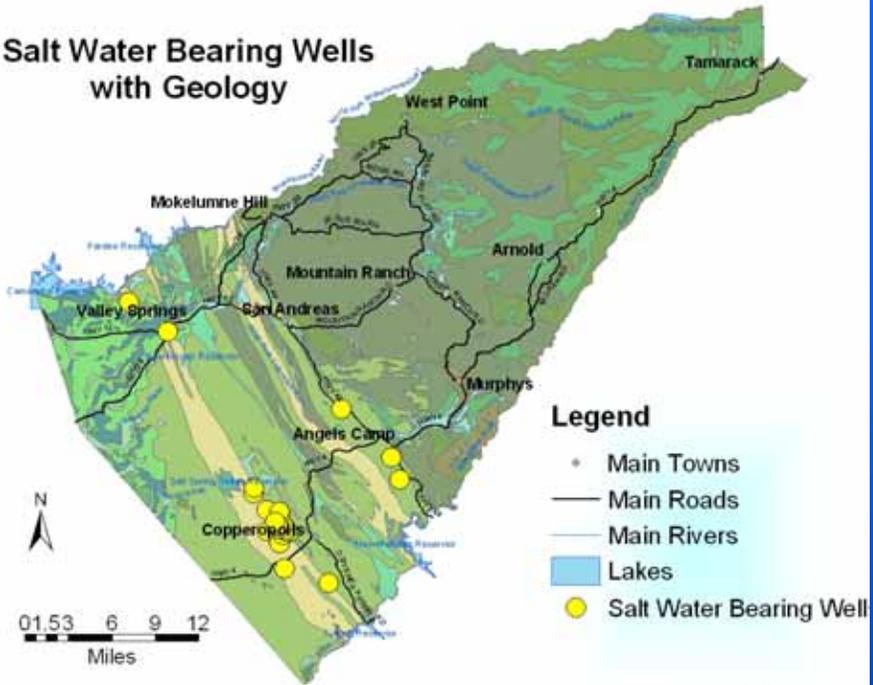
# Sulfide Mineralization



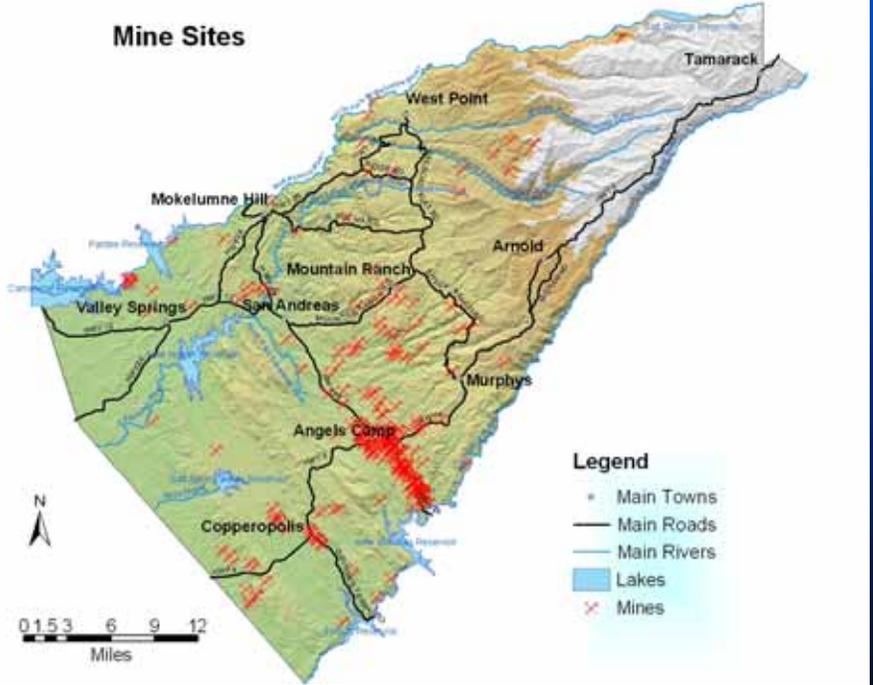
# Fault Zone Geology



# Salt Water Bearing Wells with Geology



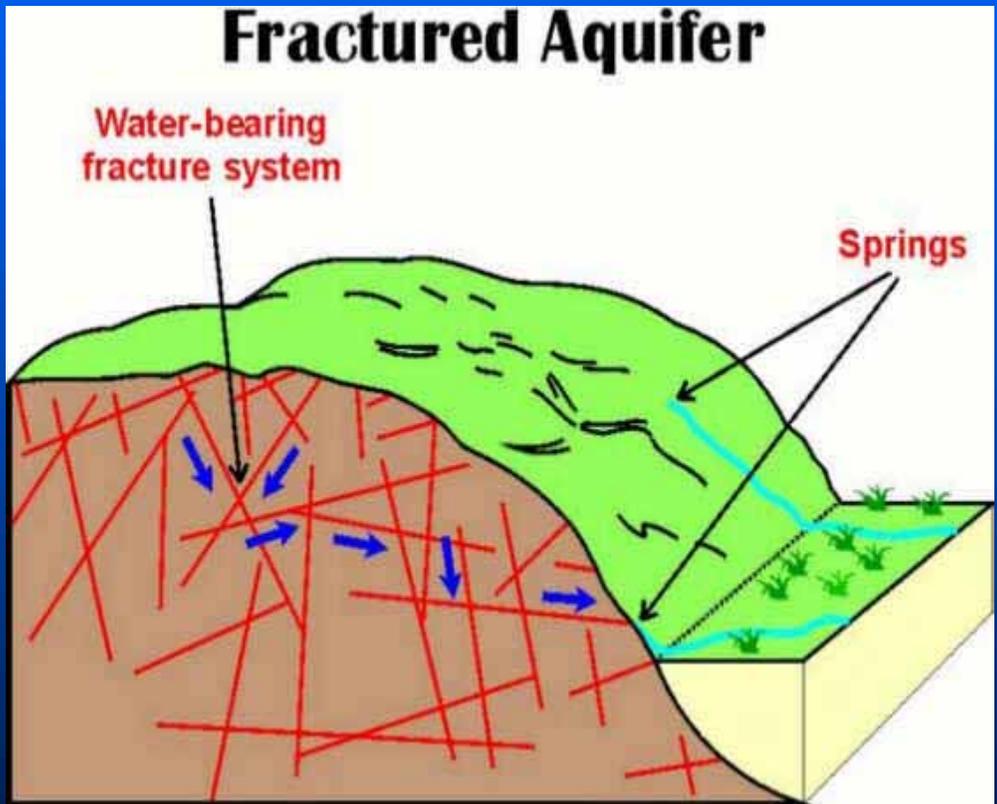
# Mine Sites



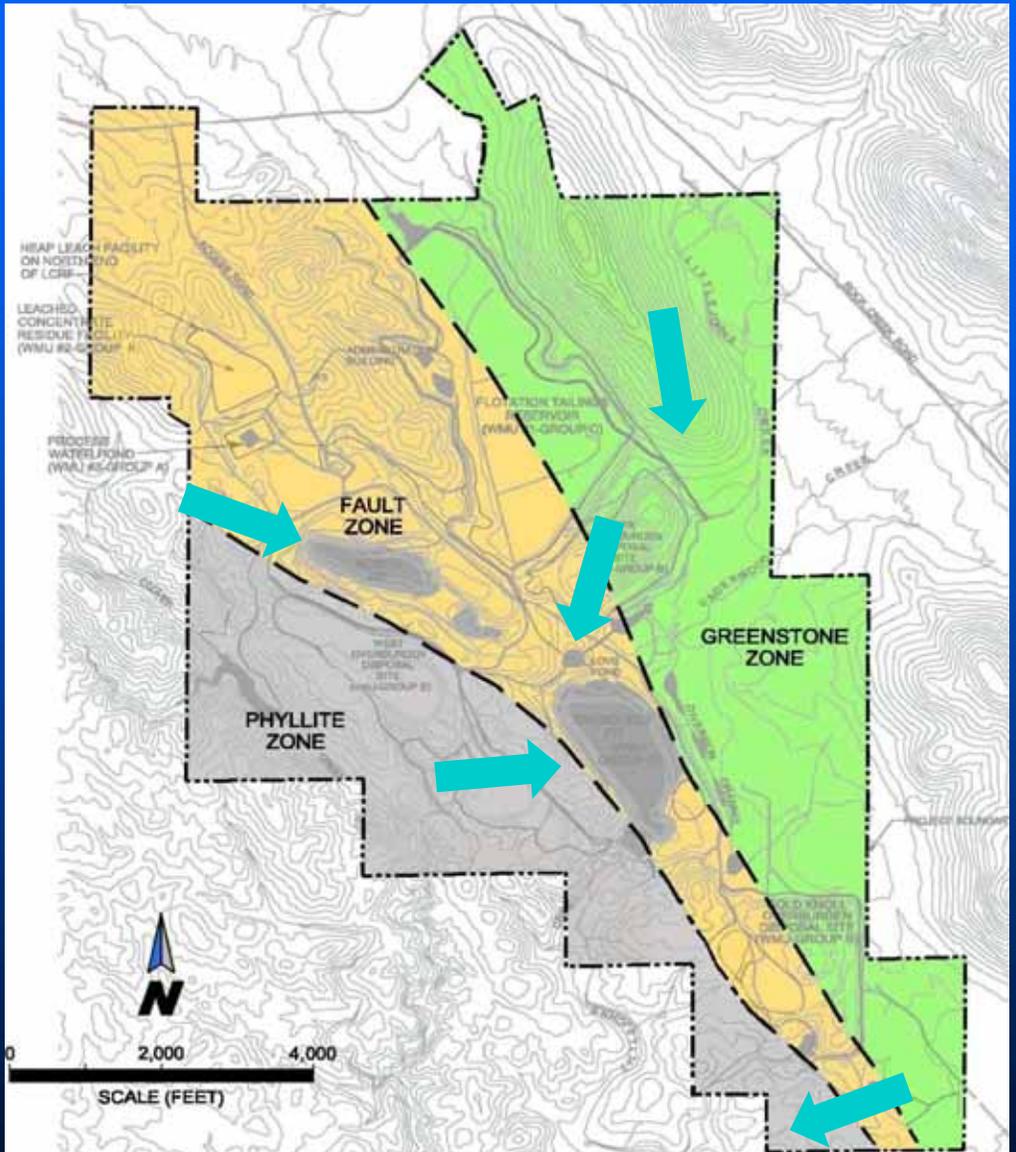
# Groundwater Conditions



# Groundwater Flow in Fractured Bedrock



# Groundwater Flow Directions



# Regulatory Issue

- Regulatory requirements require the Board to protect uses in the Project Area that may not be achievable, even under natural conditions.
- Meridian Beartrack, Co. (Meridian) is in a difficult position, because current regulations may require it to clean up the site to levels that may be *better* than background.

***Note: The Board is not proposing to relax regulatory requirements where people are currently using groundwater.***

# Option 1: Adjust Basin Plan to Reflect Naturally Attainable Uses

The Board will evaluate data on natural groundwater conditions in the area, and would de-designate the MUN use (and possibly others) in areas where groundwater is naturally too salty to drink.

Potential Drawbacks: It will be difficult to determine the boundaries of the de-designated zone; no de-designation if groundwater is not as bad as currently thought.

## Option 2: Redefine Beneficial Uses In the Area (Establish Site-Specific Objectives)

The Board will evaluate whether it is reasonable to allow salty water to remain classified as suitable for the MUN use, despite high salinity.

Example: AGR uses and salinity.

Potential Drawback: If the water is too salty to drink, it would be difficult for the Board to justify retaining the MUN beneficial use.

## Option 3: Issue Enforcement Order Including a “Containment Zone”

Meridian would be required to establish a “containment zone” beneath the site. No impacts would be allowed beyond the containment zone.

Potential Drawbacks: Meridian’s containment zone would essentially be protecting groundwater that is already naturally too saline to drink; the enforcement order would need to remain in place as long as beneficial uses were affected.

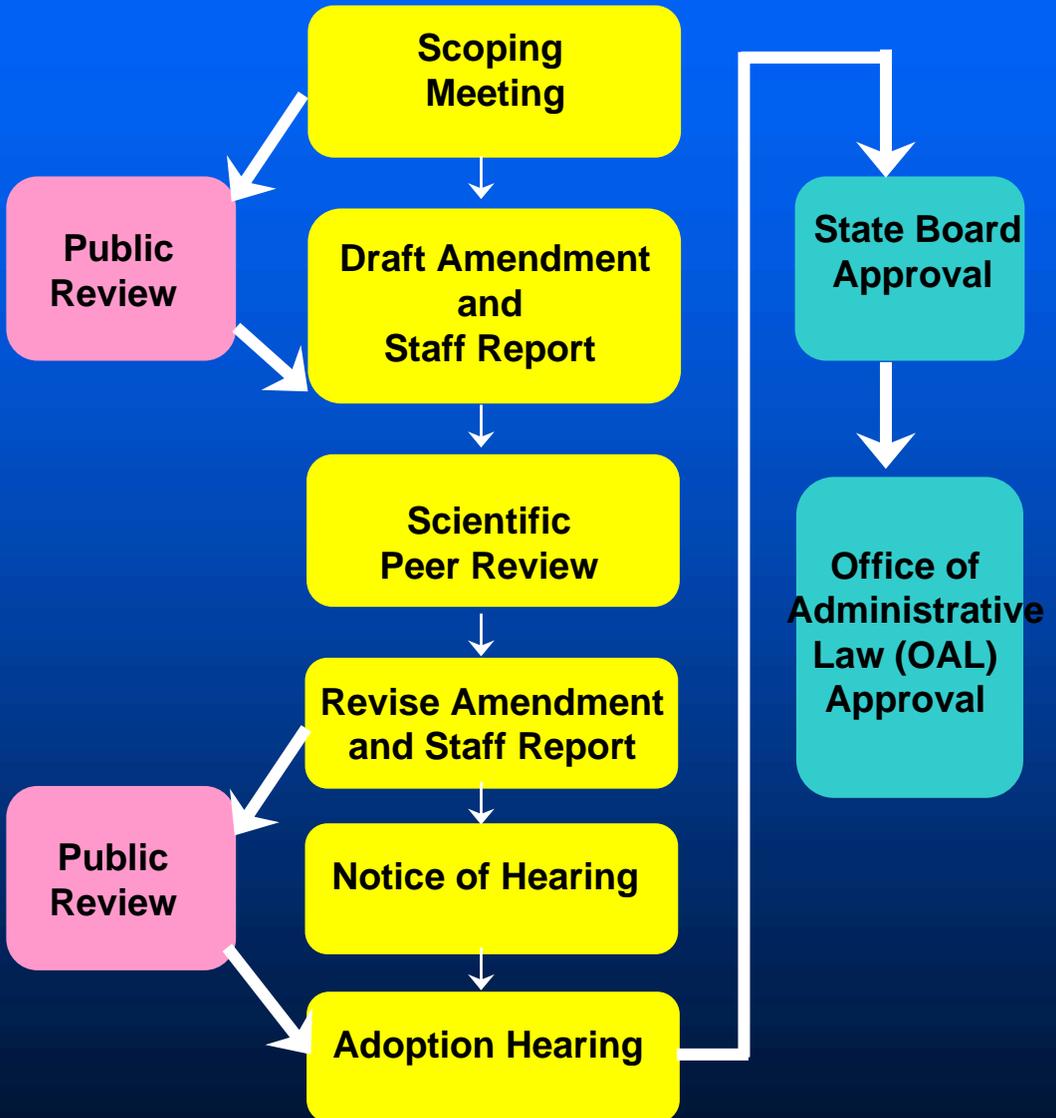
# Other Options?

No Change: Make Meridian fully clean up property.

Drawback: Precluded by the State Board.

Other ideas?

# Basin Planning Steps



# Public Input Time-line

<b>Scoping Meeting</b>	<b>23 June 2011</b>
Deadline for Scoping Comments	14 July 2011
Draft Amendment and Staff Report - Public Review	Spring 2012
Workshop	As Needed
Anticipated Central Valley Water Board Adoption Hearing	Summer 2012

# Questions About Presentation?

# Discussion Topics

1. What other alternatives should this project consider?
2. What are the potentially significant environmental impacts of the project?
3. Do you know of any measures to mitigate any significant environmental impacts of the proposed amendment?

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# Keeping in Touch

## ■ Website

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/basin\\_plans/hodson\\_littlejohns\\_fault\\_zone/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/hodson_littlejohns_fault_zone/index.shtml)

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Hodson-Littlejohns Fault Zone Groundwater

### – Postal

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# Contact Information

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