

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LOS ANGELES REGION

**Resolution No. R12-XXX**

**A Resolution Endorsing the Document: *Regional Water Board Assistance in Guiding Salt and Nutrient Management Plan Development in the Los Angeles Region***

June 7, 2012

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) finds that:

1. The Recycled Water Policy<sup>1</sup> (Policy) of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) requires the development of salinity/nutrient management plans (SNMPs) in each groundwater basin to assess water quality and evaluate strategies for complying with water quality objectives throughout the region. The Policy notes that:

*Pursuant to the letter dated December 19, 2008 and attached to the Resolution adopting [the] Policy, the local water and wastewater entities, together with local salinity/nutrient contributing stakeholders, will fund locally driven and controlled, collaborative processes open to all stakeholders that will prepare salinity and nutrient management plans for each basin/sub-basin in California, including compliance with CEQA and participation by Regional Water Board staff.*

2. Regional Board staff has prepared the “Regional Water Board Assistance in Guiding Salt and Nutrient Management Plan Development in the Los Angeles Region” to assist stakeholders and interested parties interpreting the requirements of the Policy in order to produce and compliant and consistent SNMPs for the ground water basins of the Los Angeles Region. The document presents further clarification and information that will allow for
  - greater consistency between basin-specific SNMPs developed within the Los Angeles Region,
  - improved clarity and increased efficiency in the preparation of Los Angeles SNMP plans,
  - increased local agency confidence and decreased regulatory uncertainty in the salinity/nutrient management process
  - increased local agency and stakeholder buy-in to the salt and nutrient management planning effort
  - increased efficiency in regulatory review of developed salinity/nutrient plans
  - increased likelihood of regulatory approval of developed salt/nutrient management plans

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<sup>1</sup> State Water Board Resolution No. 2009-0011 adopted on February 3, 2009 and approved by the Office of Administrative Law on May 14, 2009.

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- decreased regulatory conflicts with the development of local water and recycled water supplies within the Los Angeles Region.
3. The purpose of the Policy is to increase the use of recycled water from municipal wastewater sources that meets the definition in Water Code Section 13050(n), in a manner that implements state and federal water quality laws. When used in compliance with the Policy, Title 22, and all applicable state and federal water quality laws, the State Board finds that recycled water is safe for the approved uses, and strongly supports recycled water as a safe alternative to potable water for such approved uses.
  4. The Los Angeles Regional Board supports water recycling projects in the Region and has approved three major recycling projects for groundwater recharge – Alamitos Barrier Project, the Harbor Recycling Project, and the West Basin MWD Project, in addition to permitting several recycled water facilities where the discharges are used extensively for irrigation purposes. The Board has also included stormwater capture and on-site use requirements in their most recent Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permits.
  5. The Los Angeles Regional Board encourages local agencies, water users, and other stakeholders to develop SNMPs required under the Policy. Since the adoption of the Recycled Water Policy, Regional Board staff have worked to facilitate the SNMP process. Two region-wide annual stakeholder SNMP workshops have been held - the first in November 2010 to introduce the concept of SNMPs and initiate the development process, and the second in November 2011 to provide further clarification on certain regulatory aspects of the Policy's SNMP requirements and to present stakeholders with the opportunity to provide updates on their progress. Regional Board staff have also been available to provide basin-specific technical guidance and oversight.
  6. Use of the document will enhance the likelihood that a management plan will meet the Policy requirements. The document provides more detailed on the required SNMP elements along with Regional Board expectations of the completed SNMP.
  7. The document is not a policy or regulation of the Regional Water Board and has no regulatory affect; it is intended to assist in the development of SNMPs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Los Angeles Regional Board:

1. Recognizes the imperative for increased recycled water development and use in the Los Angeles Region
2. Recognizes the benefits of developing and implementing SNMPs for the preservation and/or enhancement of the quality of the region's water resources
3. Recognizes that some basin management groups have developed basin-wide management plans that contain several elements that parallel the SNMP requirements of the Policy and that these plans may need some modifications to be considered in compliance with these requirements.

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4. Recognizes that the document clarifies regulatory requirements regarding the scope of the SNMP but does not specify the approaches to be applied to SNMP development; rather stakeholders have the flexibility of complying with these expectations through any approach of their choosing.
5. Endorses and encourages the use of the clarification document as a guide for interpreting SNMP requirements in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of the Recycled Water Policy
6. Directs the Executive Officer or his designee to:
  - a) Facilitate SNMP development through support of requests by local agencies for loan and grant funding for development of SNMPs
  - b) Continue to participate in the stakeholder process
  - c) Periodically report to this Board on the status of SNMP development
  - d) Facilitate the reporting of ambient groundwater monitoring, and
  - e) Facilitate permitting of eligible recycled water projects

I, Samuel Unger, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, on November 10, 2011.

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Samuel Unger, P.E.  
Executive Officer

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