

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

RESOLUTION NO. R5-2018-0059

DELTA NUTRIENT RESEARCH PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION  
PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF NUTRIENT NUMERIC OBJECTIVES

WHEREAS:

1. Resolutions were adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board – Resolution 2008-0056) and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Regional Water Board – Resolution R5 2008-0134), on 15 July 2008 and 11 September 2008, respectively, adopting the *2008 Strategic Workplan for Activities in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary*.
2. The *June 2008 Strategic Workplan for Activities in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary* outlined a five-year plan for priority activities of the Water Boards to address the water quality and water supply issues in the Bay-Delta.
3. In 2013, the Delta Stewardship Council adopted the Delta Plan to implement the goals of the Delta Reform Act. The Delta Plan Water Quality Recommendation #8 states that the Water Boards should prepare and begin implementation of a study plan for the development of nutrient objectives for the Delta.
4. In 2014, Central Valley Water Board staff updated the Central Valley Water Board's activities in the *2008 Strategic Workplan* by removing activities already completed and adding five new projects to benefit Delta water quality. The Central Valley Water Board received an Information Item on the *2014 Delta Strategic Work Plan* on 7 February 2014.
5. A new priority identified in the *2014 Delta Strategic Work Plan* was to develop a Nutrient Study Plan to determine whether numeric water quality objectives for nutrients are needed to protect beneficial uses in the freshwater Delta.
6. Staff convened a Stakeholder and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) to provide recommendations and review materials for the Nutrient Research Plan. Between September 2014 and July 2018, the STAG met nineteen times. Additionally, work groups tasked with reviewing literature and identifying issue-specific information gaps met multiple times during this period. Subject matter experts were engaged to write a set of white papers describing the current state of scientific understanding.
7. Based on the findings from the white papers, knowledge gap documents and other available information, the STAG determined that more information is needed to determine whether site-specific nutrient objectives would be effective at addressing water quality problems in the Delta, namely: increasing severity and frequency of

harmful algal blooms and associated toxins and noxious compounds; low phytoplankton productivity; excess growth of non-native aquatic plants, and low dissolved oxygen in some waterways.

8. Information gaps exist in three interrelated topic areas: scientific research and modeling to understand nutrient mechanisms and impacts; identification of policy options and threshold values for beneficial use protection; and identification of potential changes in nutrient loads and future management options.
  
9. The Delta Nutrient Research Plan establishes a framework and actions to generate information to determine whether numeric nutrient objectives are needed and whether nutrient reductions will decrease existing water quality concerns. The Delta Nutrient Research Plan also identifies collaboration between agencies and entities conducting nutrient-related projects as vital to completion of the research needs identified.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Central Valley Water Board approves the July 2018 Delta Nutrient Research Plan.
2. The Central Valley Water Board directs Board staff to initiate actions described in the Delta Nutrient Research Plan and to provide regular updates to the Water Board of the progress of implementing these actions.

I, PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution approved by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region on 2 August 2018.

Original signed by Patrick Pulupa

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PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer