

Concise Summary of Regulatory Provisions

TITLE 23. Waters

Division 4. Regional Water Control Boards

Chapter 1. Water Quality Control Plans, Policies, and Guidelines

Article 5. Central Valley Region

The following section 3949.16 is to be added to Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations:

3949.16 - Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plans for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins and the Tulare Lake Basin to Establish a Central Valley-wide Salt and Nitrate Control Program.

On May 31, 2018, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) adopted Resolution No. R5-2018-0034, amending the Water Quality Control Plans for the Central Valley Region to Incorporate a Central Valley-wide Salt and Nitrate Control Program.

The Amendments will:

1. Establish a phased Salt Control Program for discharges to surface and groundwater;
2. Establish a prioritized Nitrate Control Program for discharges to groundwater;
3. Identify alternative compliance pathways that allow collaborative means of addressing salt and nitrate issues;
4. Include a Conditional Prohibition of Discharge to establish enforceable conditions until the Central Valley Water Board revises permits to incorporate applicable requirements from the Control Program;
5. Establish a Surveillance and Monitoring Program;
6. Revise the existing Salinity Variance Policy;
7. Revise the existing Exceptions Policy;
8. Incorporate a Drought and Conservation Policy;
9. Incorporate an Offsets Policy; and
10. Clarify intent and use of applying secondary MCLs in permitting actions.