

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN DIEGO REGION**

**TENTATIVE RESOLUTION NO. R9-2010-0125**

**A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR SALINITY AND  
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING IN THE SAN DIEGO REGION**

**WHEREAS**, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (hereinafter, San Diego Water 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 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. To assist interested agencies and local stakeholders, the Southern California Salinity Coalition and San Diego County Water Authority with input from interested agencies and local stakeholders prepared *Proposed Guidelines Salinity/Nutrient Management Planning in the San Diego Region (9)*(Guidelines) dated September 1, 2010. The Guidelines present a standardized approach and framework that allow for:
  - greater consistency between basin-specific salinity/nutrient management plans developed within the San Diego Region,
  - improved focus and increased efficiency in the preparation of San Diego Region salinity/nutrient management plans,
  - increased local agency confidence and decreased regulatory uncertainty in the salinity/nutrient management process,
  - increased local agency participation in the salinity/nutrient management planning effort,
  - increased stakeholder involvement,
  - increased efficiency in regulatory review of developed salinity/nutrient 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

- increased probability for regulatory approval of developed salinity/nutrient management plans, and
  - decreased regulatory conflicts with the development of local water and recycled water supplies within the San Diego 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 Water 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 San Diego Water Board has a long history of taking actions in support of beneficial water recycling projects in the Region. These actions include, but are not limited to, modifying the *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (9)* (Basin Plan), where justified, for the sole purpose of enhancing recycled water use; supporting and facilitating the applications by local agencies for federal and state grant funding of their recycled water projects; and expediting the regulatory permit process by being one of the first, if not the first, regional water board to implement the master reclamation permit approach.
  5. The San Diego Water Board has supported the development and implementation of salinity and nutrient management plans. With the adoption of the Basin Plan in 1975, the San Diego Water Board recommended implementation of water quality management measures such as irrigation efficiency control, fertilizer application control, intrusion barriers, selected blending of imported waters, groundwater recharge and flushing, and groundwater pumpage, demineralization and exportation via brine lines to the ocean. The San Diego Water Board also called for in-depth salt balance studies to develop a recommended plan for groundwater management that would include the appropriate elements from these recommendations. Through numerous Basin Plan updates, the San Diego Water Board reaffirmed its support for water recycling and for the development of salinity and nutrient management.
  6. The San Diego Water Board encourages local agencies, water users, and other stakeholders to develop salinity/nutrient management plans required under the Policy. The San Diego Water Board has coordinated with the Southern California Salinity Coalition, the San Diego County Water Authority, interested agencies and other stakeholders to develop guidelines for the management plans. Public workshops were held October 6, 2009, and June 15, 2010. After each event, the Executive Officer reported the results of the workshops and status of the guidelines. The San Diego Water Board provided comments at the workshops and in a follow-up letter dated July 1, 2010.
  7. Use of the Guidelines will enhance the likelihood that a management plan will meet the Policy requirements. The Guidelines provide the local context while promoting

consistency where applicable. The Guidelines review the breadth and depth of existing knowledge to prioritize planning for individual basins. The Guidelines consider historical information and current implementation options while allowing flexibility for new research and regulation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the San Diego Water Board:

1. Recognizes the imperative for development of recycled water in the San Diego Region.
2. Recognizes the benefits of developing and implementing salinity/nutrient management plans for the preservation of the quality of the Region's water resources.
3. Recognizes the necessity for a tiered approach to developing salinity/nutrient management plans in the San Diego Region, where alluvial groundwater aquifers vary significantly and the level of effort would be dependent on various factors.
4. Endorses and encourages the use of the *Proposed Guidelines for Salinity/Nutrient Management Planning in the San Diego Region (9)*, but does not preclude agencies/stakeholders from developing and pursuing alternative approaches that are consistent with State Water Board and San Diego Water Board policies.
5. Directs the Executive Officer to:
  - a. Support requests by local agencies for loan and grant funding for development of salinity/nutrient management plans,
  - b. Participate in the stakeholder process,
  - c. Report to this Board on the status of salinity/nutrient plan development,
  - d. Facilitate the reporting of ambient groundwater monitoring, and
  - e. Streamline permitting of eligible recycled water irrigation projects.

*I, David W. Gibson, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region, on November 10, 2010.*

TENTATIVE

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**David W. Gibson**  
Executive Officer