

Proposed Amendment to the Recycled Water Policy

Public Stakeholder Meeting

January 4, 2018

Sacramento, CA



Meeting Purpose

- Describe Amendments to the Water Quality Control Policy for Recycled Water (Recycled Water Policy)
- Receive input from stakeholders on options that are being considered for the amendments



Meeting Format

- Staff Presentation
 - Project background and scope
- Interactive Discussion
 - Feedback on options being considered per topic



web participants - please use this email to relay your comments:
Xuan.Lieu@waterboards.ca.gov



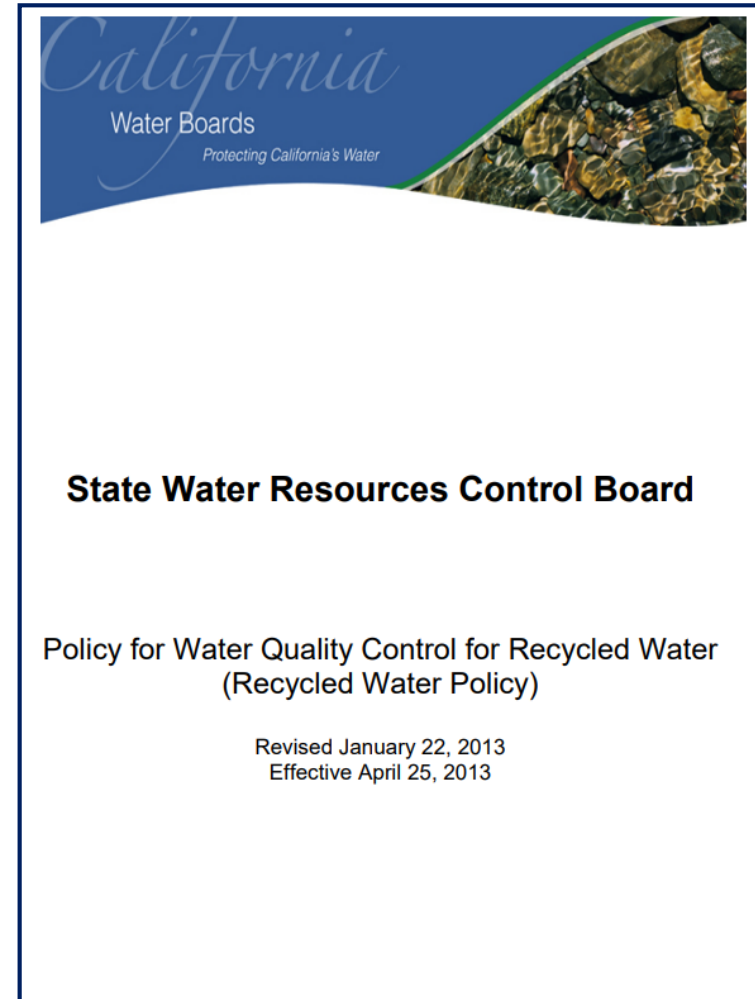
Recycled Water Policy History

Promote the use of recycled water while protecting public health and water quality through consistent, streamlined permitting of recycled water projects

2009
Adopted

2013
Amended
Added CEC
monitoring

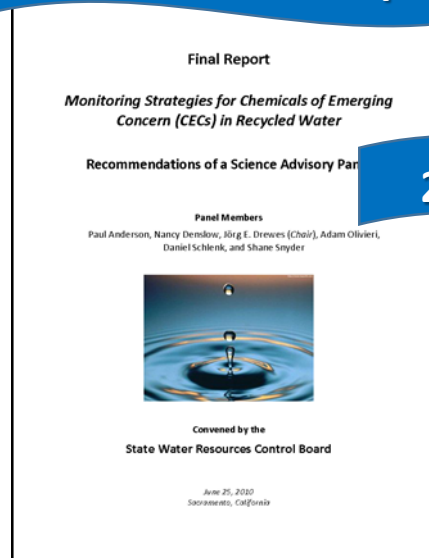
2016
Resolution



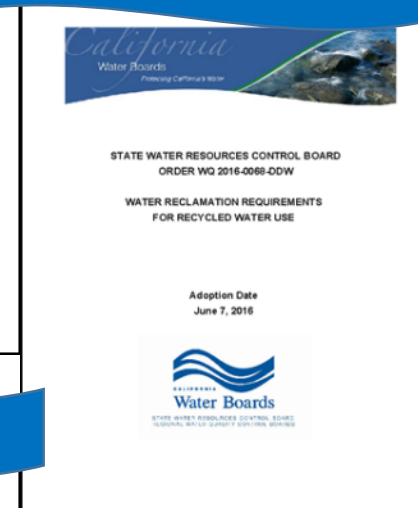
Drivers for Amending the Policy

- Reconvene Science Advisory Panel on CECs
- Changes in regulatory environment
- State Water Board Resolution 2016-0061

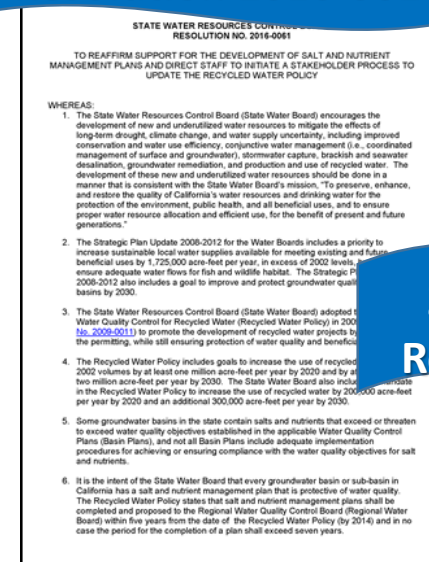
2010 CEC Panel Report



2016 General Order



Resolution 2016-061



2014 Groundwater Recharge Regulations



Project Schedule

Recycled Water Policy Amendment



Science Advisory Panel on CECs in Recycled Water



Topics Under Consideration

1. Update CEC monitoring requirements
2. Re-evaluate recycled water goals and mandates
3. Reporting and tracking recycled water production and use
4. Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) related topics
 - 4.1 Categorize groundwater basins for salt and nutrient threat
 - 4.2 Streamlined permitting criteria for non-potable reuse projects
 - 4.3 Approval process for SNMPs that do not involve a Basin Plan Amendment
 - 4.4 Explain use of interim assimilative capacity
 - 4.5 Provide guidance for updating SNMPs



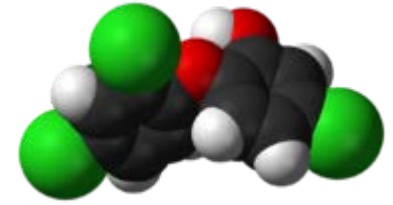
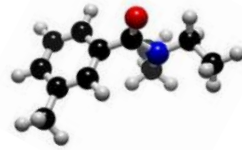
Topics Under Consideration (cont.)

5. Priority pollutant monitoring for landscape irrigation
 - 5.1 Landscape Irrigation
 - 5.2 Groundwater Recharge
6. Clarify process to comply with Water Code section 1211
7. Review/update existing recycled water permits
8. Rescind the 2009 landscape irrigation general order

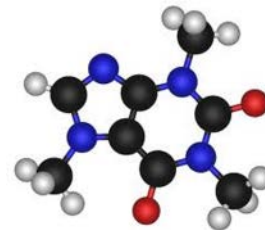
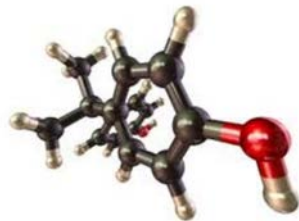
***Current staff recommendations are in bold text**



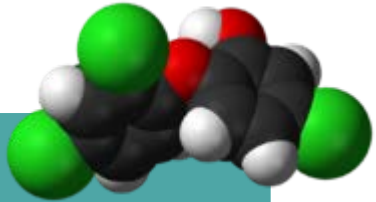
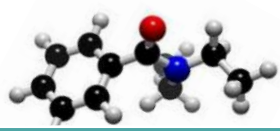
Topic 1: Update CEC Monitoring Requirements - Background



- Reconvened the Science Advisory Panel in July 2017
- Review the current state of scientific knowledge and monitoring data related to human health risks associated with exposure to CECs in recycled water
 - Including antibiotic resistant bacteria and antibiotic resistance genes



Topic 1: CEC Science Advisory Panel – Schedule



Panel Schedule

July 19 and 21, 2017	Public Meeting #1, Costa Mesa, CA
December 15, 2017	Public Meeting #2 Sacramento, CA and webcast
January 2018	Draft Report released for 30 day public comment
February 2018	Final Report



Topic 2: Revise Goals and Mandates - Background

- The Policy includes:
 - **Goals** for recycled water use.
 - **Mandates**, extended goals in Water Code §13577 by 20 years. No guidance on how to enforce the mandates.
 - **Storm water** and **conservation goals**, which are now addressed through the Strategy to Optimize Resource Management for Storm Water (STORMS) and the implementation of Senate Bill X7-7 and Executive Order B-37-16 Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life.
- The Department of Water Resources established statewide water recycling **targets** as required by Water Code §10608.50(b), published in the 2013 California Water Plan Action Update.



Topic 2: Revise Goals and Mandates

Options and Discussion - storm water use goals

Staff is proposing to remove from Policy (STORMS program is a more appropriate place for storm water goals).

Options and Discussion - conservation goals

Staff is proposing to remove from Policy (addressed in Senate Bill X7-7 and in the Department of Water Resources California Water Action Plan).

Options and Discussion - recycled water use mandates

- a. **Remove mandates from the Policy as they are not enforceable and the goals can serve a similar purpose as aspirational numbers.**
- b. Keep the mandates and develop tools for the regional water boards to make the mandates enforceable.



Topic 2: Revise Goals

Options and Discussion – recycled water goals

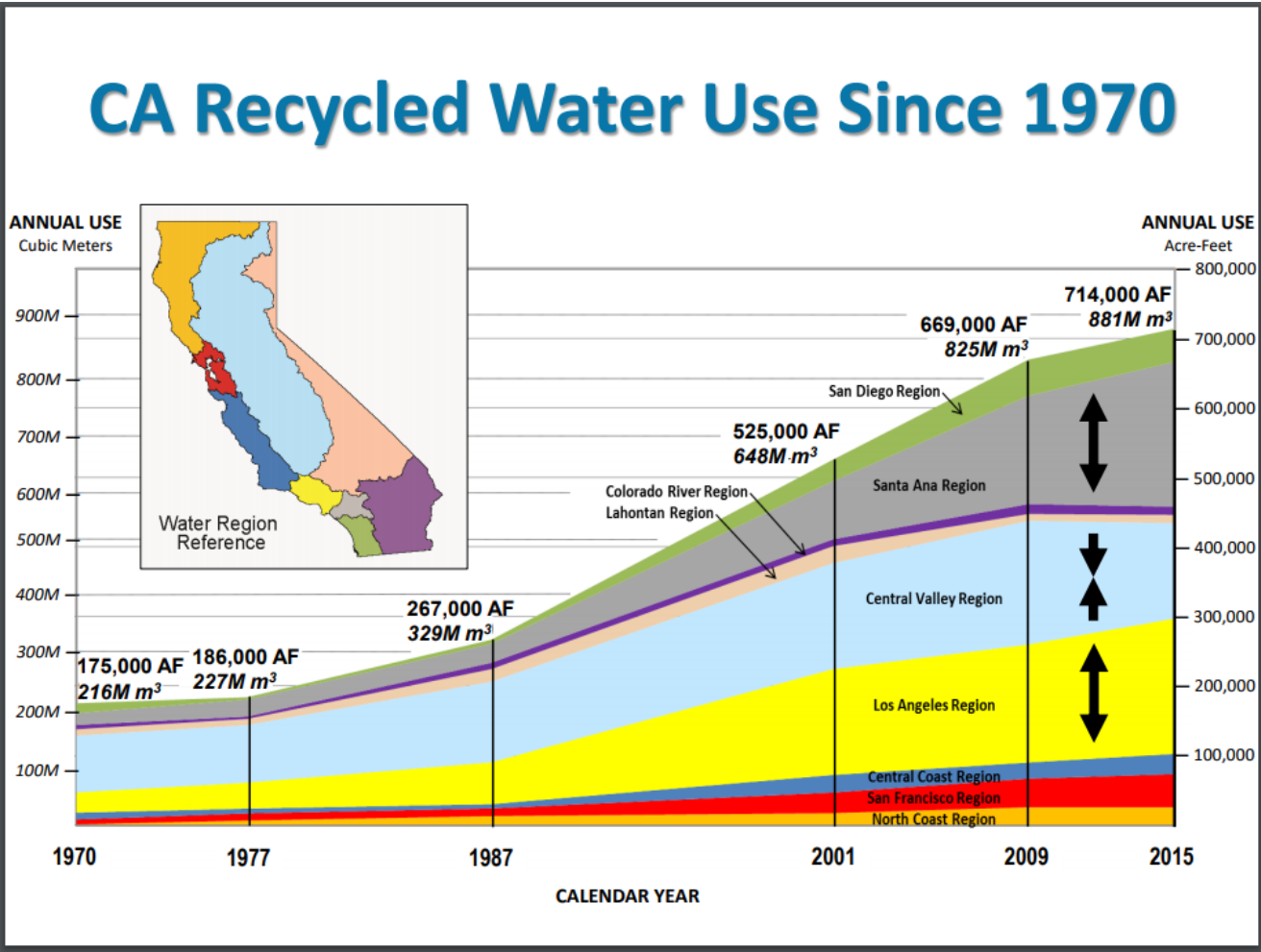
- a. **Maintain the current recycled water goals for this Policy amendment.**
 - Continue to engage members of the recycled water community to track and analyze recycled water use data.
 - Conduct an analysis of the volume of wastewater available for reuse and use these data to update the goals in a future Policy amendment.
- b. Replace the current goals with recycled water targets established by the Department of Water Resources.
- c. **In addition to (a) or (b), include a narrative goal of decreasing wastewater discharges to the ocean.**
- d. Replace the existing goals with numeric goals for reducing a percentage of treated wastewater discharged to the ocean/salt sink.
- e. Remove all numeric goals and replace with narrative goals.



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Topic 3: Tracking Recycled Water - Background

- Currently data are gathered through recycled water surveys.
- Surveys yield useful data, but are infrequent and labor intensive.



Topic 3: Tracking Recycled Water

Options and Discussion

Staff is proposing to **include reporting requirements (in permits) for annual reporting to assist in the tracking of recycled water production and use.**

Staff is considering what level of detail to track:

- a. volume produced
- b. level of treatment
- c. volume used by category
- d. volume of potential recycled water
- e. volume used that otherwise would have been discharged to a salt sink.

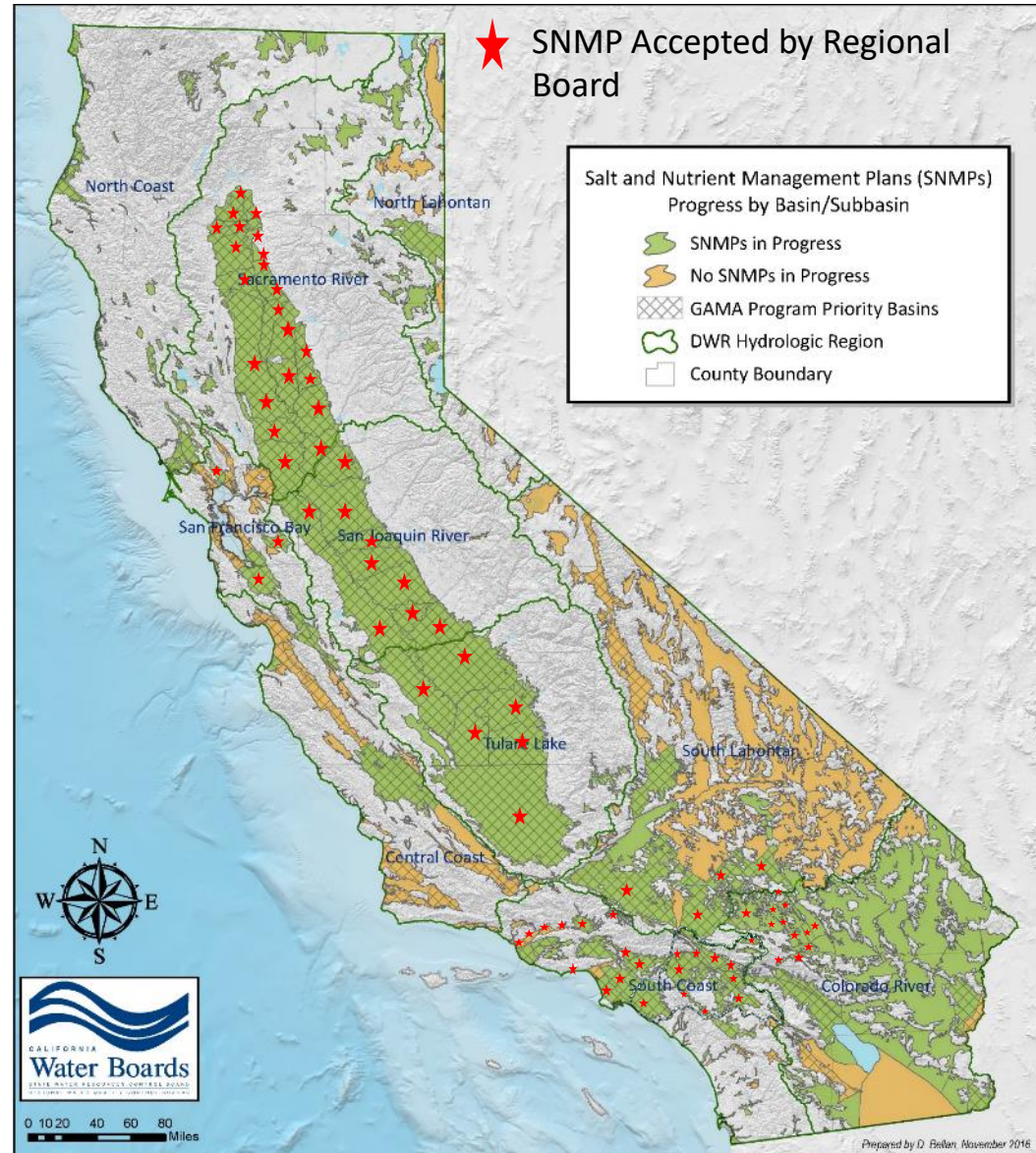
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Topic 4: Salt and Nutrient Management Plans

The Policy requires development of SNMP to help address the potential for recycled water projects to impact groundwater quality.

Based on our experience with SNMPS, and feedback from regions and stakeholders, staff have developed recommendations to update and improve the SNMP program.



Topic 4.1: Basin Categorization - Background

- Current policy includes intent for all basins to have an SNMP.
- State Board provided additional guidance to focus on priority basins identified by USGS.
- Groundwater quality in many basins in California are not threatened by salt and nutrient loading.
- The California DWR also has a prioritization system (CASGEM) that is used in implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
- Some regions have developed their own categorization.



Topic 4.1: Basin Categorization

Options and Discussion

- a. **Require the regional water boards to evaluate all groundwater basins with respect to groundwater quality threats from salts and nutrients and develop a list of basins needing SNMPs.**
 - Include a list of basin characteristics to consider
 - Require periodic re-assessment
- b. Require regional water boards to use (GAMA) or (CASGEM) categorization system to provide statewide consistency.

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Topic 4.2: Streamlined Criteria for Non-Potable Projects and Basins with no SNMP - Background

- The Policy contains streamlined permitting criteria and guidance for antidegradation evaluations for landscape irrigation projects.
- The Policy does not such guidance for other non-potable recycled water use projects, or for permitting projects in basins that do not have an SNMP and where no SNMP is being developed.
- Since the Policy was adopted, the State Water Board developed statewide Water Reclamation Requirements for Recycled Water Use (Order WQ 2016-0068-DDW, “2016 WRRs”), which provide streamlined criteria and an antidegradation analysis for non-potable recycled water projects.



Topic 4.2: Streamlined Criteria for Non-Potable Projects and Basins with no SNMP

Options and Discussion

Staff is considering amending the Policy to **include streamlined permitting criteria for non-potable use projects allowed under Title 22:**

- written such that no further antidegradation analysis would be required for non-potable reuse projects that meet those criteria.
- based on the criteria developed for the 2016 WRRs, such that it would be as protective as those criteria.
- could be used to facilitate permitting of non-potable recycled water projects
- could be applied to basins where there is no SNMP in place.

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Topic 4.3: Approval Process for SNMPs without Basin Plan Amendment - Background

- The Policy states that the regional water boards shall consider for adoption as a basin plan amendment SNMPs “for those groundwater basins within their regions where water quality objectives for salts or nutrients are being, or are threatening to be, exceeded.”
- Several SNMPs have been prepared that conclude that water quality objectives are not exceeded or threaten to be exceeded.
- The Policy is silent regarding the approval process for these SNMPs, or how they are to be used by regional boards.



Topic 4.3: Approval Process for SNMPs without Basin Plan Amendment

Options and Discussion

Staff is proposing to include language in the Policy to **explain the process for a regional water board to accept SNMPs that do not involve amending the basin plan.**

The language will include a more formal process for describing staff review and approval of SNMPs, and how approved SNMPs are to be used to guide permitting of water recycling projects in the region.

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Topic 4.4: Interim Assimilative Capacity - Background

- The Policy includes interim assimilative capacity criteria for cases where an SNMP “is being prepared” (landscape irrigation projects) or “until such time as an SNMP is in effect” (groundwater recharge projects).
- Intended to assist with permitting of recycled water projects while SNMPs were being developed.
- The deadlines for SNMP development in the Policy have passed, and there is a need to clarify how this interim capacity is to be used going forward.



Topic 4.4: Interim Assimilative Capacity

Options and Discussion

- a. Extend use of the interim capacity for potable and non-potable projects.
- b. Do not extend the use of these interim capacity guides. The deadlines for developing SNMPs in the Policy have passed.
- c. **Extend use of interim capacity only for groundwater recharge projects.**



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Topic 4.5: Updating SNMPs

- The Policy does not include language regarding if or how SNMPs are to be updated.
- SNMPs include conceptual models that project anticipated water quality 10-20 years forward – there is no requirement that these models be reviewed against data.

Options and Discussion

Staff is proposing to **include language in the Policy to encourage stakeholders to update SNMPs periodically**, including types of analyses that should be included in the updates and the frequency for the update.

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Topic 5.1: Priority Pollutant Monitoring – Landscape Irrigation

- Review of monitoring data indicate that detections of priority pollutants in tertiary treated water used for landscape irrigation is infrequent.
- Priority pollutants are monitored through NPDES permits.

Options and Discussion: Landscape Irrigation

- a. Reduce frequency of monitoring
- b. Reduce number of constituents to monitor
- c. **Remove priority pollutant monitoring requirements**
- d. Maintain current monitoring requirement

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Topic 5.2: Priority Pollutant Monitoring – Groundwater Recharge

Policy: monitor for priority pollutants twice per year.

Since the Policy was adopted, Title 22 regulations for groundwater recharge project were adopted that require:

- quarterly monitoring of priority pollutants
- may reduce this frequency to once per year with Agency approval.

Options and Discussion: Groundwater Recharge

Staff proposes to **remove the requirement** for priority pollutant monitoring for groundwater replenishment projects **from the Policy** because **permit writers should use the priority pollutant monitoring requirements in Title 22.**

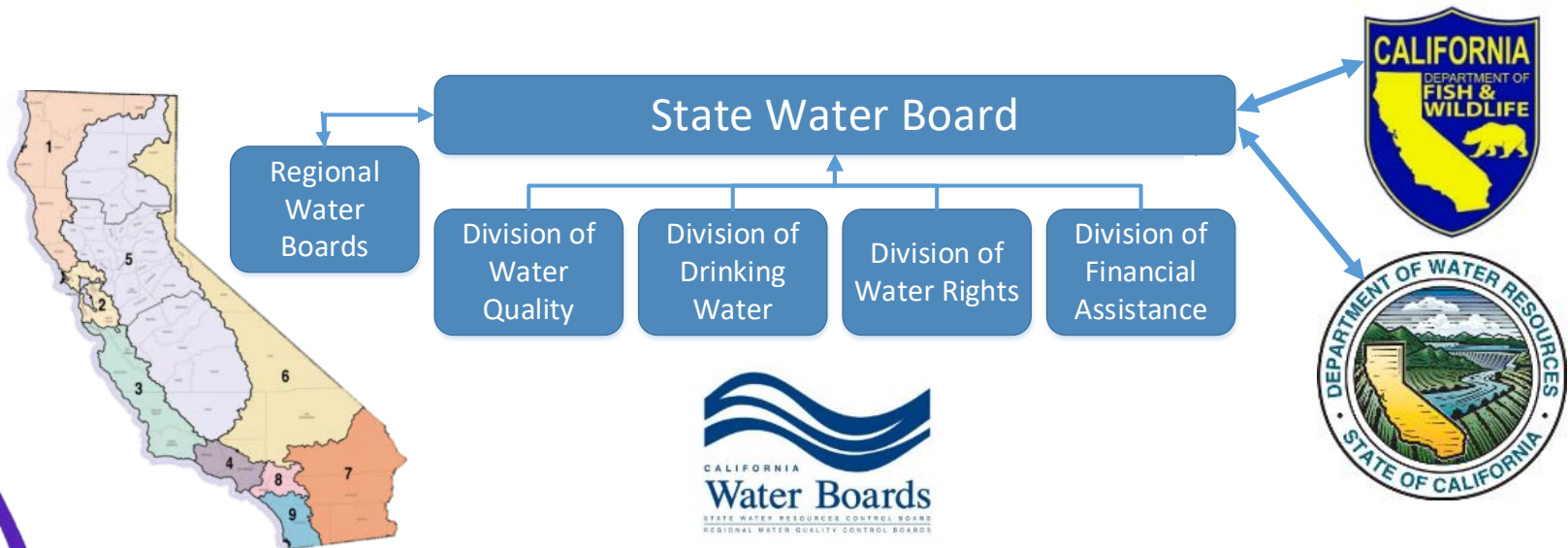
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Topic 6: Compliance with Section 1211 - Background

Stakeholders have expressed concerns about the mechanism for verifying compliance with Water Code section 1211.

A recycled water project proponent needs to verify their compliance with various agencies that they are working with to get permitted or to receive funding or loans.



Topic 6: Clarify Compliance with Section 1211

Options and Discussion

Staff is proposing to include language to explain intra- and interagency coordination of wastewater change petitions.

May also state that *cumulative impacts* may be considered for water volume.



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Topic 7: Update Recycled Water Permits

- Recycled water projects permitted under site-specific Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), Water Reclamation Requirements (WRRs), or Master Reclamation Permits (MRPs).
- Some recycled water facilities have permit requirements that may not be consistent with the requirements of Title 22 or the Policy.

Options and Discussion

Staff is proposing to require the regional water boards to review existing permits and update, as necessary, for compliance with existing regulations.

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Topic 8: Rescind 2009 General Order

- General Order mandated in the Water Code
- There are two enrollees in this General Order
- 2016 WRRs cover same uses

Options and Discussion

Staff is proposing to rescind Order WQ-2009-0006-DWQ and transition current enrollees to the 2016 WRRs.

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Questions / Comments – All Topics

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Upcoming Dates

Event	Date
Public Stakeholder Meeting Fountain Valley, Orange County Water District	January 11, 2018
Draft Science Advisory Panel Report (start of public comment period)	Mid-January, 2018
Final Science Advisory Panel Report for CECs	Mid-February, 2018
Draft Amendments to the Recycled Water Policy Released for Public Comment	March/April, 2018



Stay Up-to-Date and Involved

- Email notifications

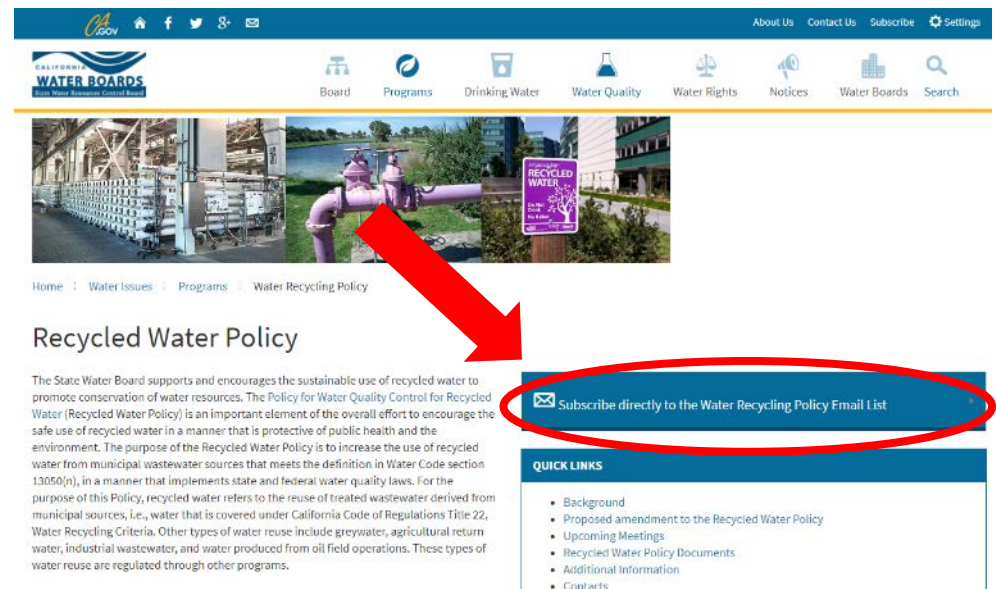
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_recycling_policy/

- Project Contact:

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The screenshot shows the California Water Boards website. The navigation bar includes links for Board, Programs, Drinking Water, Water Quality, Water Rights, Notices, and Water Boards. The main content area features a banner image of a water recycling facility. Below the banner, the page title is "Recycled Water Policy". A red arrow points to a button that says "Subscribe directly to the Water Recycling Policy Email List". Below this button is a "QUICK LINKS" section with a list of links: Background, Proposed amendment to the Recycled Water Policy, Upcoming Meetings, Recycled Water Policy Documents, Additional Information, and Contacts.





Thank You

