

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
JUNE 5, 2012**

ITEM 11

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SANTA ANA REGION TO INCORPORATE UPDATES TO MANAGEMENT ZONE BOUNDARIES AND THE TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS (TDS) AND NITROGEN MANAGEMENT PLAN (SALT MANAGEMENT PLAN) FOR THE SANTA ANA REGION

DISCUSSION

On January 22, 2004, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Water Board) adopted [Resolution R8-2004-0001](#) to amend the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (Basin Plan) to incorporate revised boundaries for groundwater subbasins (renamed “groundwater management zones”), revised total dissolved solids (TDS) and nitrate-nitrogen objectives for the management zones, revised TDS and nitrogen wasteload allocations for discharges of recycled water to the Santa Ana River and its tributaries, and revised reach designations for certain surface waterbodies. To accommodate recycled water projects in the Region, alternative "maximum benefit" TDS and nitrate-nitrogen water quality objectives were also established for some groundwater management zones. The application of these less stringent objectives is contingent on specific commitments by those who requested the objectives. These include commitments to implement basin-wide water supply and water quality management programs, including salt removal projects, monitoring programs and conjunctive use programs – all developed to ensure that the beneficial uses of the groundwater management zones are protected. The Basin Plan amendments approved by Resolution R8-2004-0001 also specified a revised implementation plan for salt management, known as the Salt Management Plan, for the Santa Ana Region. In part, this revised plan identified the strategies for implementation of the “maximum benefit” objectives. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approved the amendment on September 30, 2004 and December 23, 2004, respectively. The surface water standards provisions of the amendment were approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on January 20, 2007.

Federal and state laws require the Regional Board to review and update the Basin Plan periodically. Further, the Basin Plan amendments approved by Resolution No. R8-2004-0001 included requirements for data collection and analysis and periodic review of the Salt Management Plan based on those analyses. This includes basin boundaries, beneficial use designations and the related implementation requirements, taking into consideration the best available information and any new scientific data. As a result of recent review, the Santa Ana Water Board adopted Resolution R8-2012-0002 on February 10, 2012 to revise the Basin Plan to reflect updated information and to incorporate certain revised salt management strategies, including an update of the Prado Basin Management Zone boundary (Basin Plan Chapter 3), update of the surface water monitoring program annual report submittal date (Basin Plan Chapter 5.V.A2), deletion of the groundwater monitoring program requirement to confirm the 50% nitrogen loss coefficient in the Santa Ana River Reach 3 (Basin Plan Chapter 5.V.B), and

revision of the Chino Basin Maximum Benefit Program Implementation Plan, including revisions to the Chino Basin Watermaster (Watermaster) and Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) surface water and groundwater monitoring program requirements (Basin Plan Chapter 5.VI.A). The Basin Plan revisions approved by Resolution R8-2012-0002 include a requirement for Watermaster and the IEUA to submit updated surface water and groundwater monitoring program work plans as part of the revised Chino Basin Maximum Benefit Program Implementation Plan.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board approve the amendment to the Basin Plan to incorporate updates to Management Zone boundaries and the Total Dissolved Solids and Nitrogen Management Plan (Salt Management Plan) for the Santa Ana Region?

FISCAL IMPACT

Santa Ana Water Board and State Water Board staff work associated with or resulting from this action will be addressed with existing and future budgeted resources. The approval of this Basin Plan amendment should not significantly add or detract from current workloads.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

Yes, approval of this resolution will amend the Santa Ana Water Board's Basin Plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board:

1. Approve the amendment to the Basin Plan adopted by the Santa Ana Water Board's Resolution No. R8-2012-0002.
2. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to submit the amendment adopted by the Santa Ana Water Board's Resolution No. R8-2012-0002 to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for further consideration.

State Water Board action will amend an existing Salt Management Plan that implements Water Boards Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012. The Salt Management Plan implements strategies to improve and protect groundwater quality in high use basins by 2030. In particular, approval of amendment to the existing Salt Management Plan will continue to enable the Water Boards to fulfill Objective 2.1: to implement an integrated groundwater protection approach by 2012 to improve and protect groundwater in high-use basins that (a) evaluates and regulates activities that impact or have the potential to impact beneficial uses, (b) recognizes the effects of groundwater and surface water interactions on groundwater quality and quantity, and (c) encourages and facilitates local management of groundwater resources.

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STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2012-

APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SANTA ANA REGION TO INCORPORATE UPDATES TO MANAGEMENT ZONE BOUNDARIES AND THE TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS (TDS) AND NITROGEN MANAGEMENT PLAN (SALT MANAGEMENT PLAN) FOR THE SANTA ANA REGION

WHEREAS:

1. On February 10, 2012, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Water Board) adopted [Resolution No. R8-2012-002](#), amending the Basin Plan to incorporate updates to Management Zone boundaries and the Total Dissolved Solids and Nitrogen Management Plan (Salt Management Plan) for the Santa Ana Region.
2. The Santa Ana Water Board found that the revised Salt Management Plan is consistent with the State Water Board [Resolution No. 68-16](#) because present and anticipated beneficial uses will continue to be protected, best practicable treatment or control of waste discharges will continue to be in place, and the highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the state will be maintained.
3. The Santa Ana Water Board found that the amendments do not contain scientific elements. Therefore, no external scientific peer review of the proposed revisions was conducted.
4. Extensive analysis of the Salt Management Plan pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was conducted as part of the consideration of 2004 Salt Management Plan Basin Plan Amendment. The revisions to the Salt Management Plan would have no material direct or indirect effect on the environment, nor would changes to the previous CEQA findings be required. Accordingly, the Santa Ana Water Board found that no further CEQA analysis was required. The State Water Board affirms this determination.
5. The State Water Board finds that, in amending the Basin Plan, the Santa Ana Water Board complied with the requirements set forth in sections 13141, 13240, 13242, and 13245 of the Water Code. The State Water Board also finds that the regulatory action meets the "necessity" standard of the Administrative Procedures Act, Government Code section 11353, Subdivision (b).
6. The Basin Plan amendment does not become effective until approved by the State Water Board and until the regulatory provisions are approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Approves the amendment to the Basin Plan as adopted by Santa Ana Water Board Resolution No. R8-2012-0002

D R A F T

2. Authorizes the Executive Director or designee to submit the amendment adopted by Santa Ana Water Board R8-2012-0002 to the OAL to approve the regulatory provisions.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Clerk to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on June 5, 2012.

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board