

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

RESOLUTION NO. R5-2006-0024

REQUESTING STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD SUPPORT OF
EFFORTS ADDRESSING SALINITY IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY

Whereas, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) finds that:

1. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the Central Valley Water Board held a joint public workshop on 31 January 2006 to receive information on salinity issues in the Central Valley; and
2. The information provided at the workshop indicates that salinity is already impacting beneficial uses of the Central Valley and management of salinity is expected to become more of a technical and economic challenge as the population of the Central Valley grows; and
3. Management of salinity for protection of receiving waters is already a major challenge for dischargers regulated by virtually all of the Central Valley Water Board's regulatory programs; and
4. Failure to manage salt could result in widespread loss of water supplies and adverse economic impacts to the region; and
5. Much of the State's surface water supply could be adversely impacted by salinity increases in Central Valley waters; and
6. The policies addressing salinity in the Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans) for the Sacramento River, San Joaquin River and Tulare Lake basins have not been reviewed for over 30 years; and
7. The Chair of the State Water Board has asked the Central Valley Water Board to develop recommendations on a process to follow to address the issues related to salinity in the Central Valley and to report back to the State Water Board; and
8. The scope of issues related to management of salinity in the Central Valley will require several years to thoroughly address; and
9. Resources to adequately address salinity to the extent necessary are not available in the Central Valley Water Board's budget; and

10. Assistance is needed from the State Water Board to develop the process to be followed and to identify the sources and amount of funding needed to adequately address salinity in the Central Valley; and
11. The Central Valley Water Board held a public meeting in which it considered all comments regarding adoption of this resolution;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Central Valley Water Board requests continued support from the State Water Board in the areas of public outreach and technical support, and the allocation of currently available statewide funds to address the issue of salinity in the Central Valley; and
2. The Central Valley Water Board requests that the State Water Board work closely with the Central Valley Water Board and stakeholders to identify the amount and source of funding needed to conduct a multi-year assessment of steps needed to manage salinity in the Central Valley for the protection of beneficial uses while protecting and enhancing economic development in the region.

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board on 16 March 2006.

Original Signed by:

PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer