

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: Discussion of a draft Basin Plan Amendment that would de-designate the MUN and AGR beneficial uses from groundwater within horizontally and vertically delineated areas underlying a portion of the historic Tulare Lake Bed

BOARD ACTION: *Informational Item only.* Staff presentation and oral comments for consideration in development of proposed Basin Plan Amendment.

BACKGROUND: Board staff, in conjunction with the CV-SALTS initiative, are developing an amendment to the Tulare Lake Basin Plan that would de-designate the MUN and AGR beneficial uses from groundwater in a portion of the historic Tulare Lake Bed where water quality is naturally very poor. This work stems from the recognition by both the Central Valley Water Board and the CV-SALTS initiative that there was a need for the Board to review the Basin Plan's beneficial use designations to determine whether these beneficial use designations were appropriately made and, if so, to assess whether the Basin Plan's implementation programs provide an appropriate level of protection for the waterbodies that support these beneficial uses.

The Central Valley Salinity Coalition and the Tulare Lake Drainage District have developed technical information and environmental and economic analyses to support the de-designation of the MUN and AGR beneficial uses in horizontally and vertically delineated areas of the historic Tulare Lake Bed, based on thresholds derived from the *Sources of Drinking Water Policy* (for the MUN beneficial use) and from relevant scientific criteria and guidelines for the use of water for livestock and crop irrigation (for the AGR beneficial use).

This informational item is intended to invite comment and recommendations on the current preferred alternative. Discussion will include, but is not limited to:

- Preliminary versus proposed project boundary
- Existing and potential use evaluation
- Environmental and economic impact of proposed project

Comments and recommendations from the Board and interested parties will provide guidance on drafting Basin Plan Amendment language for Board consideration at a future meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: N/A - Informational item only.

Mgmt. Review JEC
Legal Review PEP
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