

AGENDA ITEM: 13

SUBJECT:

Proposed Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin to Remove the Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) and Agricultural Supply (AGR) Beneficial Use from Groundwater within a Horizontally and Vertically Delineated Area Underlying a Portion of the Southern Lost Hills Oilfield

BOARD ACTION:

Consideration of Approval of Environmental Documentation and Adoption of Proposed Basin Plan Amendment

BACKGROUND:

Staff, in conjunction with the CV-SALTS initiative and Seneca Resources (Seneca), has developed a proposed Basin Plan Amendment (proposed Amendment) that would remove the Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) and Agricultural (AGR) beneficial use from groundwater within a horizontally and vertically delineated portion of the Southern Lost Hills Oilfield, where groundwater quality is naturally very poor (>10,000 mg/L Total Dissolved Solids).

This work stems from the recognition by both the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board or 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. Seneca developed technical information and environmental and economic analyses to support the de-designation of the MUN and AGR beneficial uses in a horizontally and vertically delineated area of the Southern Lost Hills Oilfield, based on exception criteria 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). The proposed Amendment and a supporting Staff Report were released for public review and comment on 25 March 2022. The deadline for written comments was 9 May 2022. No comments were received. Agenda materials include this summary, a final [Staff Report](#) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/southern_lost_hills/bpa/solosthills_draft_staff_rpt%20.pdf) with the proposed Amendment language in the Executive Summary and the draft Resolution for adopting the proposed Amendment. [All material related to the project](#) is available at:

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/southern_lost_hills/)

ISSUES:

No issues have emerged to date for the project.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends adoption of the proposed Basin Plan Amendment and approval of the environmental documentation.

REVIEWS:

Management Review:	Meredith Howard
Legal Review:	Jessica Jahr

BOARD MEETING LOCATION:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

AND VIA VIDEO AND TELECONFERENCE