

**REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN DIEGO REGION**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT  
September 14, 2022**

**ITEM NO. 7**

**SUBJECT**

Update on the development of a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for the Temecula Valley Groundwater Basin prepared by Rancho California Water District (RCWD) and Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD). (*Brandon Bushnell*)

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Informational item only; no staff recommendation.

**KEY ISSUES**

This item is an opportunity for the San Diego Water Board and members of the public to learn about the development of a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for the Temecula Valley Groundwater Basin by RCWD and EMWD.

**PRACTICAL VISION**

The informational item is consistent with the Strategize for Healthy Waters chapter of the *San Diego Water Board Practical Vision*.<sup>1</sup> The development and implementation of Salt and Nutrient Management Plans allows for the continued use of recycled water while protecting local groundwater resources.

**DISCUSSION**

This item is an opportunity to provide Board Members and the public with an update on the development of a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for the Temecula Valley Groundwater Basin. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted the *Policy for Water Quality Control for Recycled Water* (Recycled Water Policy)<sup>2</sup> on February 3, 2009; and amended the policy on January 22, 2013, and December 11, 2018, to streamline and standardize permitting for recycled water projects. The amended Recycled Water Policy provides requirements regarding the methodology and criteria for the Regional Water Boards to use when issuing permits for

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<sup>1</sup> Practical Vision:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/programs/practical\\_vision/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/practical_vision/)

<sup>2</sup> The Recycled Water Policy can be found at the following webpage:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/resolutions/2018/121118\\_7\\_final\\_amendment\\_oal.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2018/121118_7_final_amendment_oal.pdf)

recycled water projects. The amended Recycled Water Policy also includes additional guidance for the development of salt and nutrient management plans that manage salts and nutrients from all sources on a basin-wide or watershed-wide basis in a manner that ensures attainment of water quality objectives and protection of beneficial uses. The amended Recycled Water Policy specifies wastewater entities, in consultation with stakeholders, are responsible for developing salt and nutrient management plans.

RCWD, as the lead agency, submitted the *Temecula Valley Basin Salt and Nutrient Management Plan* in May 2014 (SNMP). EMWD assisted RCWD in funding the necessary studies to complete the SNMP, however RCWD is the lead agency in drafting the SNMP. The 2018 Recycled Water Policy amendment made changes to the requirements for salt and nutrient management plans such as clarifying what type of modeling should be used and outlining the formal approval process to be taken by the Regional Water Boards. San Diego Water Board staff met with RCWD on January 20, 2021, to discuss the SNMP and the 2018 amendment to the Recycled Water Policy. RCWD and the San Diego Water Board staff mutually agreed at the conclusion of the meeting, that an update to the SNMP would be beneficial to verify that it meets the amended Recycled Water Policy. Additionally, RCWD's efforts to revise the SNMP will allow for renewed public engagement and awareness, and the incorporation of new management measures.

#### **LEGAL CONCERNS**

None.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The agenda notice for today's meeting was posted on the San Diego Water Board's website and sent to subscribers to the email list for Board meetings. This satisfies the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requirements to publish the meeting notice and agenda.

#### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

None.