

Attachment 1

Proposed Alternative Language Regarding
Salt/Nutrient Management Plans

Replace the Existing Policy Language,
beginning at page 5, line 157 through Page 8, line 279, with the following :

Comment: There's nothing in here about addressing other constituents. I like that but it's a major departure from the policy. I added something in at the end to address this.

1. *Salt/Nutrient Management Plans*

a. *Introduction*

- (1) Some groundwater basins in the State contain salts and nutrients that exceed or threaten to exceed water quality objectives established in the applicable Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans), and not all Basin Plans include adequate implementation procedures for achieving or ensuring compliance with the water quality objectives for salt or nutrients. These conditions can be caused by natural soils/conditions, discharges of waste, irrigation using surface water, groundwater or recycled water and water supply augmentation using surface or recycled water. Regulation of recycled water alone will not address these conditions.
- (2) It is the intent of this Policy that salts and nutrients from all sources be managed on a basin-wide or watershed-wide basis in a manner that ensures attainment of water quality objectives and protection of beneficial uses. The State Water Board finds that the appropriate way to address salt and nutrient issues is through the development of regional or subregional salt and nutrient management plans rather than through imposing requirements solely on individual recycled water projects.

Deleted: groundwater recharge

b. *Adoption of Salt/Nutrient Management Plans.*

- (1) The State Water Board recognizes that, pursuant to the letter dated _____ attached to this Policy, water and wastewater entities, together with salt/nutrient contributing stakeholders, will fund locally driven and controlled, collaborative processes open to all stakeholders that will prepare salt and nutrient management plans for each basin/sub-basin in California, including compliance with CEQA and participation by the Regional Water Board staff.
 - (a) It is the intent of this Policy that every groundwater basin/sub-basin, as defined by CDWR in Bulletin 118, will be assessed using a common methodology so that consistent salt/nutrient management plans can be developed throughout the State.

(b) It is the intent of this Policy that the initial assessment shall inform the degree of specificity and length of these plans. The State Water Board recognizes that the complexity of these plans will be dependent on a variety of site-specific factors, including but not limited to anthropogenic activities in the basin/sub-basin, groundwater quality in the basin/sub-basin, local hydrogeology, size and complexity of a basin/sub-basin, salt and nutrient inputs to the basin/sub-basin and rainwater/stormwater recharge of the basin/sub-basin. The State Water Board recognizes that the initial assessment may reveal that, for some basins/sub-basins, additional planning or monitoring activities may not be warranted.

Deleted: y

(c) It is also the intent of the State Water Board to encourage the inclusion of a significant rainwater/stormwater recharge component within the salt/nutrient management plans. Because stormwater is typically low in nutrients and salts and can augment local water supplies, inclusion of this component within the salt/nutrient management plans is critical to the long-term sustainable use of water in California. Inclusion of rainwater/stormwater recharge is consistent with State Water Board Resolution 2005-06, which established sustainability as a core value for State Water Board programs, and also assists in implementing Resolution 2008-30, which requires sustainable water resources management and is consistent with Objective 3.2 of the State Water Board Strategic Plan Update dated September 2, 2008.

(d) Salt and nutrient plans shall be tailored to address the water quality concerns in each basin/sub-basin. Such plans shall address and implement provisions, as appropriate, for all sources of salt and/or nutrients to groundwater basins/sub-basins, including recycled water irrigation projects and groundwater recharge reuse projects.

(e) Such plans may be developed or funded pursuant to the provisions of Water Code sections 10750 *et seq.* or other appropriate authority. Stakeholders are encouraged to use existing groundwater management plans developed under Water Code section 10750 *et seq.* to the maximum extent possible.

(f) Salt and nutrient plans shall be completed within five years from the date of this Policy unless a Regional Water Board finds that the stakeholders are making substantial progress

towards completion of a plan. In no case shall the period for the preparation of a plan exceed seven years.

- (g) The requirements of this paragraph shall not apply to areas that have already completed a Regional Water Board approved salt and nutrient plan.
- (2) Within one year of the completion of the initial assessment indicating that a salt and nutrient management plan is not required or the completion of a salt and nutrient management plan, the Regional Water Boards shall adopt revised implementation plans, consistent with Water Code section 13242, reflecting the results of these analyses. For those groundwater basins within regions where water quality objectives for salts or nutrients are being, or are threatening to be, exceeded, the Regional Board's implementation plans shall be based on the salt and nutrient plans required by this Policy.
- (3) Each salt and nutrient management plan shall include the following components:
 - (a) A description of the basin/sub-basin, land uses in the basin/sub-basin, in-situ water quality in the basin/sub-basin and the basin recharge area including any watershed lands outside the mapped limits of the basin/sub-basin, which recharge the basin/sub-basin.
 - (b) Identification of salt and nutrient sources in the basin/sub-basin and estimates of salt and nutrient loading in the basin/sub-basin, including estimates of changes to loading that may occur because of planned changes to:
 - (i) land use, including low impact development proposals in the watershed;
 - (ii) irrigation water quality and irrigation patterns, and;
 - (iii) intentional recharge including rainwater/stormwater recharge.
 - (c) Water recycling and stormwater recharge/reuse goals and objectives.
 - (d) A fate and transport analysis of salts and nutrients under the existing and planned patterns of land and water use.
 - (e) An analysis of implementation actions for managing salt and nutrient loading in the basin/sub-basin on a sustainable

basis, respecting in-situ water quality. For basins/sub-basins with naturally occurring brackish groundwater, this analysis may result in a conclusion that implementation actions, specifically ongoing monitoring, are not necessary.

- (f) An evaluation of the need for an ongoing monitoring program to assess the efficacy of the salt and nutrient management actions. All salt and nutrient management plans, regardless of in-situ water quality, shall include a provision for monitoring of CECs that meets any ~~recommendations provided~~ by the expert advisory panel convened by the State Water Board pursuant to this Policy.

Deleted: standards

Deleted: recommended

- (g) For basins with existing high quality waters, an antidegradation analysis demonstrating that the projects included within the plan will, collectively, satisfy the requirements of Resolution 68-16.
- (h) Provisions to review the plan for efficacy and modify implementation actions as necessary.

- (4) When the salt and nutrient management plans conclude that monitoring is necessary, ~~the plans shall include a description of the monitoring network and monitoring protocols. This description shall include a basin-wide network of monitoring stations that are adequate to provide a reasonable, cost-effective means of determining whether salt and nutrient concentrations are consistent with applicable water quality objectives.~~

Deleted: .

Deleted: T

Deleted:

- (i) The monitoring protocols must be designed to provide for regular re-assessment of the water quality in the basin/sub-basin. The protocols must be developed to focus on basin water quality near water supply wells, areas proximate to large salt and nutrient sources, and areas ~~where groundwater has connectivity with adjacent surface waters.~~

Deleted:

- (ii) The monitoring protocols shall specify the frequency of monitoring. Salts and nutrients shall be monitored on an annual basis, unless site specific analysis determines that a different frequency results in effective plan implementation.

| (iii) The preferred approach for developing monitoring protocols is to use existing wells for data collection, when the existing wells provide the spatial coverage necessary to determine water quality throughout the most critical areas of the basin/sub-basin.

Deleted:

(iv) The monitoring protocols shall include a requirement that data will be compiled and reported to the Regional Water Board every three years.

| (5) Nothing in this Policy shall prevent stakeholders from developing a plan that addresses additional constituents and/or is more protective of water quality than applicable standards in the Basin Plan. No Regional Water Board, however, shall seek to modify Basin Plan objectives without full compliance with the process for such modification as established by existing law.