

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Santa Ana Region

**RESOLUTION NO. R8-2010-XXXX**

Resolution Amending the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin to Incorporate Updated Estimates of Assimilative Capacity and Revised Wasteload Allocations for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and Nitrate-Nitrogen in Various Groundwater Management Zones Throughout the Region.

**WHEREAS**, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board - Santa Ana Region (hereinafter Regional Board), finds that:

- 1) On January 22, 2004, the Regional Board amended the Santa Ana River Basin Plan (Basin Plan) to update the Salt Management Plan (Resolution No. R8-2004-0001) and that amendment was subsequently approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on \_\_\_\_\_ and approved by the Office of Administrative Law on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) The updated Salt Management Plan includes surface water and ground water monitoring program requirements as specified in Section 13232 of the California Water Code.
- 3) The Regional Board relies on data from the surface and groundwater monitoring program to assess whether applicable water quality standards are being attained, and to determine if any assimilative capacity exists in each groundwater management zone, and to revise the wasteload allocation as necessary to protect designated beneficial uses.
- 4) Federal and state law require the Regional Board to periodically review and update the Basin Plan, including the related implementation requirements, to take into consideration new scientific information and the best available data.
- 5) Water and wastewater agencies throughout the Region formed the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force to provide the water quality data specified in the Salt Management Plan and have submitted regular and timely reports to the Regional Board.
- 6) Review of new water quality monitoring data indicates that the current ambient concentration of TDS and/or Nitrate-Nitrogen has changed in several groundwater management zones and, as a result, the available assimilative capacity has also changed.
- 7) Analysis of existing and planned discharges of reclaimed water demonstrates that the wasteload allocation adopted in 2004 must be updated to ensure that the cumulative effect of these surface water discharges continues to comply with applicable water quality objectives in all groundwater management zones.
- 8) The water quality monitoring program enacted to implement the Salt Management Plan has provided data that is essential for developing appropriate effluent limitations and should be expanded where necessary to support issuance of state and federal discharge permits.

- 9) The Basin Plan amendments delineated in the attachment to this Resolution will assure the reasonable protection of the beneficial uses of surface and groundwaters within the Region and are consistent with the state's antidegradation policy (SWRCB Resolution No. 68-16).
- 10) The proposed revisions to the Basin Plan were developed in accordance with Section 13240 et seq. of the California Water Code.
- 11) The Regional Board has considered the costs associated with implementation of these amendments and finds the costs to be reasonable.
- 12) The proposed amendments result in no potential for adverse effects, either individually or cumulatively, on fish and/or wildlife species.
- 13) The proposed amendments meet the "Necessity" standard of the Administrative Procedure Act, Government Code, Section 11352, subdivision (b).
- 14) The proposed amendments are based on analytical methods and procedures that were previously subjected to external scientific peer review. No substantive change was made to the methods and procedures previously authorized by the Regional Board, SWRCB and OAL in Resolution No. R8-2004-0001.
- 15) The Regional Board prepared and distributed written reports (staff reports) describing the proposed Basin Plan amendments and the rationale supporting each in accordance with applicable state and federal environmental regulations (Calif. Code of Regulations, Section 3775, Title 23 and 40 CFR Parts 25 and 131).
- 16) The process of basin planning has been certified by the Secretary for Resources as exempt from the requirement of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) to prepare an Environmental Impact Report or Negative Declaration. The Basin Plan amendment package includes staff reports, an Environmental Checklist, an assessment of potential environmental impacts of the Basin Plan amendment, and a discussion of alternatives. The Basin Plan amendment, Environmental Checklist, staff reports and other supporting documentation are functionally equivalent to an Environmental Impact Report or Negative Declaration.
- 17) On \_\_\_\_\_, the Regional Board held a Public Hearing to consider the proposed Basin Plan amendments. Notice of the Public Hearing was sent to all interested persons and published in accordance with Section 13244 of the California Water Code. The Regional Board considered all testimony offered at the hearing and other written comments submitted by the public before taking any final action.
- 18) The Basin Plan amendments must be submitted for review and approval by the SWRCB, and the OAL and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The Basin Plan amendments become effective upon approval by all of these other agencies and a Notice of Decision will be filed at that time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) Pursuant to Sections 13240 and 13241 of the California Water Code, the Regional Board, after considering the entire record, including all testimony provided at the public hearing, adopts the amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin as set forth in the Attachment to this Resolution.
- 2) The Executive Officer is directed to forward copies of the Basin Plan amendments to the SWRCB in accordance with the requirements of Section 13245 of the California Water Code.
- 3) The Regional Board requests that the SWRCB approve the Basin Plan amendment in accordance with the requirements of Sections 13245 and 13246 of the California Water Code and, thereafter, forward it to the OAL and USEPA for additional approvals.
- 4) If during its approval process the SWRCB or OAL determine that minor, non-substantive corrections to the language of the amendment are needed for clarity or consistency, the Executive Officer may make such changes and shall inform the Regional Board forthwith.
- 5) The Executive Officer is authorized to sign the Department of Fish and Game Certificate of Fee Exemption.

I, Gerard J. Thibeault, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board – Santa Ana Region (#8) on \_\_\_\_\_.

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Gerard J. Thibeault  
Executive Officer