

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-0015**

APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SANTA ANA RIVER BASIN (BASIN PLAN) TO ESTABLISH MAXIMUM BENEFIT TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS (TDS) AND NITRATE AS NITROGEN GROUNDWATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES AND A SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE ELSINORE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ZONE (GMZ)

WHEREAS:

1. On December 10, 2021, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Water Board) adopted [Resolution R8-2021-0044](#), an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan amendment) to incorporate a Maximum Benefit Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for the Elsinore GMZ as a mitigation plan to offset its historical and ongoing salt loading in the GMZ. The amendment includes the maximum benefit TDS and nitrate-nitrogen water quality objectives and seven commitments to implement a Maximum Benefit Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP).
2. The Santa Ana Water Board found that the analysis contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) “Substitute Environmental Documents” for the proposed Basin Plan amendment, including the CEQA Checklist, the final staff report entitled, “Consideration of approval of a resolution to approve an amendment to the water quality control plan for the Santa Ana Region (Basin Plan) to establish maximum benefit total dissolved solids and nitrate-nitrogen groundwater quality objectives and nutrient management plan for the Elsinore Groundwater Management Zone,” and the responses to comments complies with the State Water Resources Control Board’s (State Water Board) regulations for the implementation of CEQA, as set forth in the California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3775 through 3781. The State Water Board has reviewed the Substitute Environmental Documents for the Basin Plan amendment and concurs with Santa Ana Water Board’s findings and determinations.
3. The Santa Ana Water Board also adopted the Basin Plan amendment pursuant to the “Necessity” standard of the Administrative Procedures Act, Government Code section 11353, subdivision (b).
4. The Santa Ana Water Board found the Basin Plan amendment is consistent with the Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California (State Water Board [Resolution No. 68-16](#)) and the federal Antidegradation Policy (40 C.F.R. § 131.12), in that it does not allow degradation of water quality, but requires restoration of water quality and attainment of water quality standards.

5. The State Water Board finds that the Basin Plan amendment is in conformance with Water Code section 13240, which specifies that regional water quality control boards may revise basin plans, and section 13242, which requires a program of implementation for achieving water quality objective.
6. A Basin Plan amendment does not become effective until approved by the State Water Board and until the regulatory provisions are approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Approves the Basin Plan amendment adopted under Santa Ana Regional Water Board Resolution R8-2021-0044.
2. Authorizes and directs the Executive Director or designee to submit the Basin Plan amendment adopted under Santa Ana Regional Water Board Resolution R8-2021-0044 to OAL for approval.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Clerk to the Board does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on May 10, 2022.

AYE: Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel
Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo
Board Member Sean Maguire
Board Member Laurel Firestone
Board Member Nichole Morgan

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

 for
Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board