

Draft Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California Addressing Desalination Facility Intakes, Brine Discharges, and Incorporating Other Nonsubstantive Changes.

This is Change Sheet #2. Change Sheet #1, which was circulated on May 1, 2015, included proposed changes to several sections of the April 24, 2015 draft Desalination Amendment. This Change Sheet #2 includes additional changes for two sections that were proposed to be revised in Change Sheet #1. The two sections below replace the corresponding sections in Change Sheet #1. The revisions to these two sections since April 24, 2015 are reflected in blue double underline and ~~red double strikethrough~~.

OCEAN PLAN AMENDMENT

Chapter III.M.2.d.(1)(a)ii:

- ii. If the regional water board determines that subsurface intakes* are not feasible* for the proposed intake design capacity, it shall determine whether subsurface intakes* are feasible* for a reasonable range of alternative intake design capacities. The regional water board may find that a combination of subsurface* and surface intakes is the best feasible* alternative to minimize intake and mortality of marine life and meet the identified need for desalinated water as described in chapter III.M.2.b.(2).

DEFINITION OF NATURAL BACKGROUND SALINITY:

NATURAL BACKGROUND SALINITY is the salinity* at a location that results from naturally occurring processes and is without apparent human influence. For purposes of determining natural background salinity, the regional water board may approve the use of:

- (1) the mean monthly natural background salinity ~~shall be used~~. Mean monthly natural background salinity shall be determined by averaging 20 years of historical salinity* data in the proximity of the proposed discharge location and at the depth of the proposed discharge, when feasible.* For historical data not recorded in parts per thousand, the regional water boards may accept converted data at their discretion. When historical data are not available, natural background salinity shall be determined by measuring salinity* at depth of proposed discharge for three years, on a weekly basis prior to a desalination facility* discharging brine,* and the mean monthly natural salinity* shall be used to determine natural background salinity or
- (2) the actual salinity at ~~Facilities shall establish~~ a reference location, or reference locations, that is representative of ~~with similar~~ natural background salinity at the discharge location ~~to be used for comparison in ongoing monitoring of brine* discharges.~~ The reference locations shall be without apparent human influence, including wastewater outfalls and brine discharges.

Either method to establish natural background salinity may be used for the purpose of determining compliance with the receiving water limitation or an effluent limitation for salinity. If a reference location(s) is used for compliance monitoring, the permit should specify that historical data shall be used if reference location data becomes unavailable. An owner or operator shall submit to the regional water board all necessary information to establish natural background salinity.