

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board,  
Central Valley Region  
RESOLUTION**

**Statement of Regional Board Plan to Develop Drinking Water Policy for the  
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Upstream Tributaries**

WHEREAS:

1. Surface waters of the Central Valley Region provide drinking water supply for more than 65 percent of California's population.
2. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program addresses water quality problems in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in the Central Valley Region, and has identified the following drinking water quality concern:

*Source water from the Bay-Delta poses treatment challenges and public health concerns for the 22 million Californians who drink the water.*  
[CALFED Bay-Delta Program Water Quality Program Plan, July 2000, pgs. 3-4]

3. CALFED Agencies have identified a general target of continuously improving Delta water quality for all uses, including in-Delta environmental and agricultural uses and, for the drinking water quality program, CALFED Agencies have developed a specific goal based upon extensive stakeholder and agency involvement:

*CALFED Agencies' target for providing safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water in a cost-effective way, is to achieve either: (a) average concentrations at Clifton Court Forebay and other southern and central Delta drinking water intakes of 50 ug/L bromide and 3.0 mg/L total organic carbon, or (b) an equivalent level of public health protection using a cost-effective combination of alternative source waters, source control and treatment technologies.* [CALFED Bay-Delta Program Record of Decision, August 28, 2000, pg 66]

4. The August 2000 CALFED Bay-Delta Program Record of Decision specifically mentions the need for a drinking water policy for the Delta and its upstream tributaries, and includes the specific action:

*CVRWQCB, with support from the CALFED Agencies and DHS, will establish a comprehensive State drinking water policy for Delta and upstream tributaries by the end of 2004.* [CALFED Bay-Delta Program Record of Decision, August 28, 2000, pg 67]

5. The Regional Board is a signatory to the Implementation Memorandum of Understanding for the CALFED Drinking Water Quality Program, executed on May 22, 2002, which states that:

*CVRWQCB, in consultation with DHS, SWRCB, and USEPA, will have primary responsibility for development of a State drinking water policy for the Delta and its tributaries.*

6. The CALFED Record of Decision designates other specific actions to improve drinking water quality including:

- address drainage problems in the San Joaquin Valley,
- implement source controls in the Delta and its tributaries,
- invest in water treatment technologies,
- relocate drinking water intakes,
- implement water quality blending and exchange programs,
- implement conveyance and operations improvements, and
- investigate additional storage capacity.

7. The State Board set water quality objectives for salinity for municipal and industrial beneficial uses in the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary, adopted in May 1995.

8. The State Board's "Sources of Drinking Water" Policy (Resolution 88-63) addresses only *designation* of waters as drinking water sources and does not address source water protection.

9. The Regional Board has designated the drinking water beneficial use (MUN) for most waters in the Central Valley (there are over 60 waterbodies listed in Basin Plan Table II-1 with MUN as an existing or potential beneficial use).

10. The Regional Board 1998 and 2002 Triennial Reviews of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and the San Joaquin River Basins identify development of a policy for maintaining water quality for drinking water as a high priority.

11. The Regional Board has authority to formulate and adopt water quality control plans, establish water quality objectives, and develop implementation plans under California Water Code section 13240, 13241, 13242.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board:

1. Recognizes that meeting the goal of clean, safe drinking water requires a multi-barrier approach consisting of protecting source water, appropriately treating raw water, and ensuring safe distribution of treated water to consumers' taps. The Regional Board's jurisdiction and the focus of this policy is on reasonable protection of source water.
2. Recognizes the need for clear guidance and a focused drinking water policy in order to ensure reasonable protection for Central Valley source water.
3. Shall develop a drinking water policy to provide reasonable protections of source water quality for drinking water beneficial uses in the Central Valley consistent with existing State Board plans and the Regional Board's authority under the California Water Code, with the goal of adopting the policy as Basin Plan Amendment by 2009.
4. Shall develop a Central Valley drinking water policy in an inclusive, open process with active collaboration and coordination among stakeholders and regulatory agencies.
5. Shall ensure the development of the Central Valley drinking water policy is based on the best available science, cost-effectiveness, and feasibility of implementation.
6. Shall develop an implementation plan, consistent with the requirements of the Basin Planning process, to set forth the means by which proposed water quality objectives will be achieved. The feasibility, costs, and risks of various control alternatives will be evaluated. Information gathered to fulfill California Water Code requirements will include an assessment of the ability to control sources of key drinking water constituents that are discharged to ambient waters and the ability to remove the constituents in water treatment plants.
7. Acknowledges the January 14, 2003 Work Plan "Development of Drinking Water Policy: Central Valley Region Basin Plan" is the means to develop a comprehensive drinking water policy. Implementing the Work Plan will provide the information needed to develop and adopt a Basin Plan Amendment.
8. Acknowledges that not all drinking water constituents of concern are known or can be immediately addressed due to data, economic, or technical constraints. Thus the protection of the Delta and upstream tributaries as drinking water sources must be an ongoing process.
9. Supports implementation of CALFED Record of Decision water quality actions to the extent possible while the drinking water policy is under development,

consistent with the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's approach to balanced implementation of all Program elements.

10. Supports cooperative efforts to develop resource and funding commitments that will ensure protection of water quality in the Delta and upstream tributaries.
11. Supports coordination of drinking water policy development with State and Regional Board plans and programs and with related programs at other agencies.
12. Shall consider the drinking water policy need when establishing priorities for funding (including grant funding) and Regional Board staff resource allocation.

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