

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION
RESOLUTION NO. R5-2009-XXXX
IN SUPPORT OF REGIONALIZATION, RECLAMATION, RECYCLING AND
CONSERVATION FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Regional Water Board) finds that:

1. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted a State Policy for Water Quality Control on 6 July 1972 in which the State Water Board found that protection of the State's waters required implementation programs that conformed to specific principles.
2. The State Policy for Water Quality Control has since been revised by the State Water Board, but the 1972 version, which is incorporated in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and the San Joaquin River Basins, includes~~ed~~ the following principles that relate to reclaimed water and consolidation of wastewater collection and treatment systems.
 - a. Municipal, agricultural, and industrial wastewaters must be considered as a potential integral part of the total available fresh water resource.
 - b. Coordinated management of water supplies and wastewaters on a regional basis must be promoted to achieve efficient utilization of water.
 - c. Wastewater collection and treatment facilities must be consolidated in all cases where feasible and desirable to implement sound water quality management programs based upon long-range economic and water quality benefits to an entire basin.
 - d. Institutional and financial programs for implementation of consolidated wastewater management systems must be tailored to serve each particular area in an equitable manner.
 - e. Wastewater reclamation and reuse systems which assure maximum benefit from available fresh water resources shall be encouraged. Reclamation systems must be an appropriate integral part of the long-range solution to the water resources needs of an area and incorporate provisions for salinity control and disposal on nonreclaimable residues.
3. The State Water Board adopted Resolution No. 77-1, "Policy with Respect to Water Reclamation in California." Resolution No. 77-1 includes the principle that the State Water Board and Regional Water Boards shall encourage reclamation, reuse, and water conservation. The Legislature has also repeatedly expressed a strong policy favoring water recycling and reuse. (See, Water Code sections 13510-13511, 13576, 14051.)
- 3.4. The Regional Water Board has adopted the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and the San Joaquin River Basins (Sacramento/San

Joaquin Basin Plan) and the Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin (Tulare Lake Basin Plan).

4.5. The Sacramento/San Joaquin Basin Plan includes a wastewater reuse policy that encourages the reclamation and reuse of wastewater where practicable and requires as part of a Report of Waste Discharge an evaluation of reuse and land disposal options as alternative disposal methods. The Tulare Lake Basin Plan requires as part of a Report of Waste Discharge an evaluation of reuse and land disposal options as alternative disposal methods, and requires studies for new or expanded wastewater facilities that include plans for wastewater reclamation. Where these studies show that year-round or continuous reuse of all of the wastewater is not practicable, consideration must be given to partial reuse of the flow and seasonal reuse.

5.6. The Sacramento/San Joaquin Basin Plan prohibits discharges to water bodies, including sloughs and streams with intermittent flow or dilution capacity, for which the Regional Water Board has held that the direct discharge of wastes is inappropriate as a permanent disposal method.

6.7. The Tulare Lake Basin Plan specifies that municipal and domestic wastewater dischargers will be required to reclaim and reuse wastewater whenever reclamation is feasible and includes a policy that discharges to surface waters will not be considered a permanent solution when the potential exists for wastewater reclamation.

7.8. The Tulare Lake Basin Plan finds that reclaimed water provides a substitute source of water and provides nutrients that nourish crops. The Tulare Lake Basin Plan includes a policy that wastewater reclamation shall be maximized by controlling or limiting salt pickup and evaporation during use, treatment, or disposal.

8.9. The Tulare Lake Basin Plan finds that the proliferation of small treatment plants serving individual communities in developed areas is undesirable and most small communities do not have adequate resources to properly manage, treat and dispose of wastewater in an urban environment. The Tulare Lake Basin Plan includes the following policies:

- Adjoining small communities should combine resources to construct and operate a joint or regional wastewater treatment plant.
- Consolidation should be cost-effective, and consider benefits to the ecology, treatment efficiencies, and effective current and future reuse opportunities of the waters.
- Unsewered areas and new developments adjacent to or within existing wastewater collection system service areas should be connected to the

system. Developments not within a service area but within the projected sphere of influence of a regional collection system should be developed in a manner that provides for future connection to the system when it becomes available.

- Each municipal collection and treatment facility should act as a regional facility and provide sewerage services within its sphere of influence. The municipality must be equitably compensated for these services.

9:10. State and federal antidegradation policies require Dischargers to demonstrate that degradation from new or expanded discharges are necessary, and to implement best practicable treatment or control of the discharge necessary to maintain the highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State. Regionalization, reclamation, recycling and conservation may enhance the implementation of these policies.

10:11. Evaluating regionalization, reclamation, recycling/reuse and/or conservation opportunities requires a balancing of these and many other considerations, including impacts to water quality, costs, authority to implement and other factors necessary to determine if regionalization, reclamation, recycling/reuse and/or conservation are feasible and practicable for the specific facility(ies). The interrelationship of regionalization, reclamation, recycling/reuse, and conservation should also be considered. For example, regionalization may allow a higher level of treatment, facilitating recycling/reuse, but may also hinder recycling/reuse by conveying more wastewater to one location than can be feasibly reused.

11:12. Regionalization of wastewater systems can consist of a broad range of alternatives from agreements for mutual aid between nearby wastewater authorities, to centralized operation and administration of separate wastewater systems, to combining smaller wastewater systems into a single larger system.

12:13. Focused, long-range planning is necessary to identify and implement regionalization, reclamation, recycling/reuse and/or conservation opportunities. This is a continuing process in that certain projects may not be technically or fiscally feasible at this time, but may become feasible as the community grows, treatment systems are upgraded, or other factors change with time.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Consistent with the policies described above, new dischargers, and existing dischargers requesting an increase in regulated discharge flow, should provide in its/their Report Reports of Waste Discharge (ROWD), a status report regarding its/their efforts in the following areas:
 - a) wastewater recycling and reclamation;
 - b) water conservation measures; and
 - c) regional wastewater management solutions (e.g. regionalization).
2. As required by the Basin Plans, all dischargers requesting a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for discharges to surface waters, the ROWD must also include an evaluation of wastewater reclamation and land disposal as alternative disposal methods.

3. Regional Water Board staff will facilitate dischargers' opportunities for wastewater regionalization, recycling, reclamation, and conservation. Regional Water Board staff facilitation may include, but is not limited to, attending local government and stakeholder meetings, participating in public outreach efforts, and supporting the use of grant funding. Staff facilitation should promote initiation, optimization, and/or promotion of all types of water efficiency programs.
4. The Regional Water Board will consider innovative permitting options when existing NPDES permit requirements, waste discharge requirements, and/or enforcement Orders inhibit a discharger's ability to implement regionalization, recycling, reclamation, or conservation programs. All newly proposed permitting options must comply with the Clean Water Act and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act; and be protective of water quality.
5. In a future basin planning action, Regional Water Board staff is directed to develop and propose amendments to the Basin Plans that consider requirements regarding regionalization, recycling, reclamation, and conservation.

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on __ February 2009.

PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer