



The following table (adapted from FWPCA, 1968 and from Ayers and Westcot, 1985) describes an appropriate construct for evaluating salinity-related risks along a continuum for the purpose of interpreting compliance with and attainment of the narrative water quality objectives established to protect the AGR beneficial use.

Unrestricted AGR Use	Managed AGR Use	Limited AGR Use	Severely Restricted AGR
EC<700 uS/cm	EC @ 700-1,500 uS/cm	EC @ 1,500 - 3,000 uS/cm	EC>3,000 uS/cm
TDS<500 mg/L	500-1,000 mg/L TDS	1,000-2,000 mg/L TDS	>2,000 mg/L TDS
Salinity levels below this threshold impose no significant restriction on AGR use. Changes in salinity concentrations that remain below this threshold are presumed to pose no risk of impairment to any existing or potential AGR use. This presumption is rebuttable on a case-by-case basis with the burden of proof falling on those claiming that EC levels less than 700 uS/cm do not provide reasonable protection of the AGR use in specific circumstances.	Salinity in this range may impose some limited restrictions on the time, place and manner where such water could be used for irrigation but, with modern management practices, remains suitable for all but the most salt-sensitive crops. This presumption is rebuttable on a case-by-case basis with the burden of proof falling on those claiming that EC levels in this range provides reasonable protection for the actual and expected AGR uses in a given management zone.	Salinity concentrations in this range may adversely affect the expected yield of many crops and, as such, imposes significant limitations on the use of such supplies for agricultural irrigation. Very careful consideration must be given to crop selection where EC exceeds 1,500 uS/cm. The Regional Board will actively discourage EC levels from degrading beyond 1,500 uS/cm where existing water quality is currently better than that threshold value and will prohibit further degradation where EC levels already exceed 1,500 uS/cm.	Salinity concentrations in this range effectively preclude the AGR use from being attained except in the most extreme circumstances. EC levels greater than 3,000 uS/cm are presumed to impair the AGR beneficial use for all but the most salt-tolerant crops. This presumption is not rebuttable except in instances where EC levels exceed 3,000 uS/cm due to natural causes.