

Environmental Justice Goals & Principles for Nitrate Components of CV Salts

Goals for CV Salts Nitrate Component:

- Protect and restore groundwater as a source of water supply including for drinking water.
- Ensure immediate and long-term access to safe and affordable drinking water for all domestic users that are or will be impacted directly or indirectly from nitrate contamination.
- Increase strategic use of water management practices (including recycled water and recharge) to improve local water supply and quality.

Principles That Must Be Implemented Along With Any New Alternative Compliance Program:

- Any program must require that permittees immediately implement maximum efforts to protect groundwater from degradation and pollution.
- The program must not result in a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable communities
- The program and permits must provide transparent and enforceable assurances that vulnerable populations will be protected from impacts by current and future actions and discharges.
 - Proactive prevention requires good data and adequate monitoring of both impacts and water needs of vulnerable populations.
- The program and permits must require accurate, verifiable, transparent reporting of nutrient application and other relevant data to adequately manage, protect, and mitigate impacts from current discharges.
- The program and permits must set strict, enforceable timelines and milestones with respect to improved water quality for areas already impacted by nitrate contamination.
 - This means that “temporary” waivers are just that – they must include measurable and enforceable targets and schedules.
- Immediate and long-term solutions that provide mitigation through drinking water projects and programs must be the best solution for the community served with respect to water quality, affordability and sustainability.
 - This requires a community-driven process to identify, develop and oversee drinking water projects.

Principles (cont'd):

- The program and permits must mitigate nitrate impacts on all drinking water users including residents reliant on state small systems or private wells.
- Mitigation programs should not only ensure that everyone has access to safe drinking water but also that the increased costs of drinking water due to the need for nitrate treatment or development of alternatives sources due to nitrate contamination is fully mitigated.
- Because pollution of drinking water supplies will continue after dischargers attain water quality standards, permits must include mitigation funding for treatment of impacted drinking water wells until such time as those wells meet water quality standards.