

**Salinity Management Strategy – Affirmation of Revisions Based on August 1, 2016 Policy Meeting & Identification of Additional Issues for Decision  
August 10/11, 2016**

Executive Policy Decision from August 1	Reaffirmation of Decision
Priority/Optimization Study Efforts would apply valley-wide.	
Strategy would apply to both surface and groundwater	
Application of management strategy needs to include some level of forward modeling projection to determine what will be the impact to salinity levels (in groundwater in particular) over Phase 1.	
Section 3.1 needs to be revised to include milestones and timeline for the Prioritization/Optimization Study for Phase 1.	
Extend Salinity Variance Policy in the Basin Plans.	
Provide discussion regarding Regional Board permit actions that must be taken in the meantime (i.e., prior to Basin Plan amendment becoming effective)	
Interim permitting approach under Option 1 would be available for 10 years, and would need to be reviewed at the 10-year mark. Consider appropriate permitting approach at end of 10 years based on findings of Prioritization/Optimization Study. Provide Executive Officer some discretion to extend beyond 10-years under certain circumstances.	
Allow dischargers to opt out of participation in Prioritization/Optimization Study but specify the criteria for opting out in the Salinity Management Strategy. Examples of criteria could include needing to meet the objective at the end of pipe if no assimilative capacity is available; limiting determination of available assimilative capacity to shallow groundwater or the upper zone; or, permitted under currently, conservative traditional approach.	
May be unique circumstances where dischargers do not have the option to opt out of participating in the Prioritization/Optimization Study.	
Include action to review the Basin Plan, interim permitting approach, and Salinity Management Strategy at end of each Phase.	

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Executive Policy Decision from August 1	Reaffirmation of Decision
Amend Tulare Lake Basin Plan to delete managed degradation objectives.	
Amend Tulare Lake Basin Plan to delete salinity related limitations for POTWs and Industrial discharges if they are participating in Prioritization/Optimization efforts. Maintain application of such limits if they are not.	
<b>Additional Issues for Decision</b>	
<p>While under the interim permitting approach for Phase 1, how would the AGR policy apply?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would the AGR policy apply during this period?</li> <li>• Would it only apply if someone is opting out, and the narrative objective needs to be interpreted?</li> </ul>	
Should the AGR classifications apply to surface water? If not, how are narrative chemical objectives interpreted for surface water discharges?	
Would the categories described in the AGR policy be appropriate for determining assessments for funding of the Prioritization/Optimization Study.	
Where MUN is the more sensitive beneficial use, does the Secondary MCL policy apply for interpreting the applicable receiving water limit?	
Regional Board retains the authority to identify high priority saline discharges and/or areas where more stringent control programs must be implemented on an earlier time scale.	