

CV-SALTS SALT AND NITRATE MANAGEMENT PLAN GLOSSARY OF COMMON TERMS

Alternative Compliance Strategies - Regulatory compliance strategies that are outside, or are an expansion, of existing regulatory options. Alternative compliance strategies may include the use of offsets, use of assimilative capacity on a management zone basis, exceptions to meeting water quality objectives, and/or the use of management zones.

Assimilative Capacity - The amount of an aquifer system (especially that part of the aquifer system that provides actual or probable beneficial uses) that is available to accommodate additional loading of a constituent without causing the defined aquifer to exceed applicable water quality objectives.

Exception to Water Quality Standard – Allows a discharge to cause or contribute to water quality higher than a water quality objective based on the implementation of additional conditions that result in overall better environmental and/or user protection. Exceptions must undergo periodic public review.

Early Action Plan – A plan that identifies specific activities and a schedule to address immediate safe drinking water needs of those utilizing groundwater that exceeds nitrate standards in the area of influence of the discharge.

Management Zone - A geographic area that serves as a regulatory compliance unit for salts and/or nitrates where multiple dischargers work collectively to manage salt and/or nitrate by ensuring safe drinking water supplies, balancing salt and/or nitrate loading to the groundwater and developing a long-term plan for restoration of groundwater (where feasible and practicable) to meet applicable water quality objectives.

Offset – Implemented activities that create greater environmental and/or user benefits than would be achieved by strict compliance at a single point of discharge, such as immediate direct removal of nitrate in source water for an impacted community while allowing longer term restoration activities.

Production Zone - The portion of the aquifer system where the majority of groundwater is pumped (accounts for approx. 90% of groundwater being utilized for an area or basin) – ranges from the first encountered groundwater to the bottom of the lowest screened well.

Triggers – A concentration or level for a specific constituent or parameter (e.g. Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] or Electro-Conductivity [EC]), which when equaled or exceeded, may require or “trigger” implementation of additional conditions and/or measures.

Upper Zone - The portion of the aquifer system intended to represent the zone from which most domestic wells draw water from, starting from the first encountered groundwater. Depth is variable and based on well construction information that gives the highest weight to domestic well depths.