Policy for Control and Permitting of Salinity Discharges in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Basins and in the Tulare Lake Basin (Draft Outline)

I. Background/Introduction to Salt Management Strategy (SMS) (provide contextual information)
   A. Purpose and Applicability (Long term plan to bring salt into balance in the region; replace existing salinity management requirements in Basin Plans, impacts SW and GW dischargers)
   B. Salt Management Goals (Three goals stated in the strategy)
   C. Overview of Salinity Management Strategy (Introduction to sections below: Three phased implementation program over approximately 30 years; Interim salinity permitting approach; other introductions as needed)
   D. Compliance with Existing Salinity-related Water Quality Objectives (Statement that establishment of SMS does not change any existing site-specific salinity objectives in the Region or Delta)

II. Phased Implementation Program
   A. Phase 1 - Prioritization and Optimization Study
      1. Purpose (General description of activities to be completed with anticipated outcomes)
      2. Schedule (Estimated 10 years; identify big picture milestones, discretion of the Board to adjust schedule if progress being made)
      3. Participation
         a. General expectations (coverage, SW/GW)
         b. Relationship to discharge permits (but more detail below in Section III)
         c. Funding and governance
         d. Lack of participation (overview; more detail below in Section III)
   B. Phase 2 – Environmental Permitting, Funding, and Engineering and Design
      1. Purpose (Brief description of activities to be completed)
      2. Schedule (Estimated 10 years; milestones to be determined based on outcome of Phase I; discretion of the Board to adjust schedule if progress being made)
      3. Participation General expectations, mention of relationship to permits; but more detail below in Section III)
   C. Phase 3 – Implementation/Construction (Brief description of anticipated activities; schedule/participation to be determined based on findings of Phases 1/2)

III. Interim Salinity Permitting Approach
   A. Purpose and Applicability (Interim during Phase 1 and potential for renewal/modification under Phase 2; all discharges to SW/GW; new vs. existing dischargers)
   B. Process and Overview of Approach (Incorporate findings/governing principles as needed from SMS)
   C. Interim Permit Provisions (Based on SMS; expanded upon as needed)
      1. Groundwater and Non-NPDES Surface Water Dischargers
         a. Minimum WDR requirements (existing vs. new discharges?)
         b. Participation in Phase 1 P&O Study
         c. Opting out of P&O Study
            i. Compliance with water quality objectives
            ii. Allocation of assimilative capacity in groundwater
            iii. Issuance of time schedules
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2. Surface Water NPDES Dischargers
   a. Minimum NPDES permit requirements (existing vs. new discharges?)
   b. Participation in Phase 1 P&O Study
   c. Opting out of P&O Study
      i. Compliance with water quality objectives
      ii. Allocation of assimilative capacity in groundwater
      iii. Issuance of compliance schedules

IV. Nexus with Other SNMP Policies Related to Salinity Management (As needed, references/links to related sections in the new Policy for the Control of Salt and Nitrate Management in the Central Valley or other Basin Plan Implementation Chapter sections)
   A. Salinity Variance Program
   B. Exceptions Policy for Discharges to Groundwater
   C. Offsets Policy
   D. Drought & Water Conservation Policy
   E. SMCL Guidance

V. Recommendations to Other Agencies