

# Drought and Conservation Policy

Basin Plan Elements	No Action Alternative	SNMP Recommendation	Alternative Recommendation	Notes
Addition of a Drought and Conservation Policy for Salinity into the Basin Plans	No Drought and Conservation Plan for Salinity in the Basin Plans	Adopt a Drought and Conservation Policy for Salinity into the Basin Plans as part of the current amendment process.	<p><u>Alternative:</u> Further develop the Drought and Conservation Plan during Phase 1 of the Salinity Control Program as part of the Prioritization and Optimization Study and consider adopting the policy as part of Phase 2 of the program.</p> <p><u>Alternative:</u> Also include Boron in the Drought and Conservation Policy.</p>	
Long term waste discharge requirements and limitations for groundwater		For groundwater discharges; provide potential to calculate compliance with the applicable narrative or numeric salinity objectives using long-term (10+ year) flow-weighted average to calculate compliance with effluent and/or groundwater limitations when it can be demonstrated using recharge models and long-term precipitation estimates. Also consider the expected recharge and potential dilution from natural precipitation and streambed percolation.	<p><u>Alternative:</u> Dischargers to groundwater with long-term commitment (20 years) to water conservation and/or recycling efforts may be eligible to use long-term (10+ year) flow-weighted average to calculate compliance with effluent and/or groundwater limitations when it can be demonstrated using recharge models and long-term precipitation estimate.</p> <p>Conduct periodic reassessments based on best available data every 5 years unless otherwise directed in the waste discharge requirements</p> <p><u>Alternative:</u> Conduct periodic reassessments based on best available data every 10 years unless otherwise directed in the waste discharge requirements</p>	Consistent with Recycled Water Policy and encourages consideration of dilution and system mixing.

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Offsets Credits		<p>Allow offset projects consistent with the CV-SALTS Offsets Policy, particularly increased stormwater capture and recharge. Allow offset credits to be created and banked over at least 20 years.</p>	<p><u>Alternative:</u> Explore possibility to consider offsets credits during the P&amp;O Study in future Basin Plan Amendments</p>	
Water Quality Objective adjustment for Drought		<p>Establish a temporary variance/exception from salinity-related standards during drought conditions. Variance/exception would be automatically activated with one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A drought emergency is declared by an authorized federal or state authority, as defined by the California Emergency Services Act;</li> <li>b. during an extended dry period in Reach 83 of the Lower San Joaquin River (Merced to Vernalis) as defined by the SRSJR Basin Plans; or</li> <li>c. declaration of a local emergency consistent with the California Emergency Services Act.</li> </ul> <p>At such times, more appropriate interim WDRs or effluent limits, such as the short term MCL of 2,200 µs/cm EC would apply.</p>	<p><u>Alternative:</u> Policy will implement interim permit limits based on one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A drought emergency is declared by an authorized federal or state authority, as defined by the California Emergency Services Act.</li> <li><del>b. during an extended dry period in Reach 83 of the Lower San Joaquin River (Merced to Vernalis) as defined by the SRSJR Basin Plans; or</del></li> <li>c. Declaration of a local drought emergency consistent with the California Emergency Services Act</li> </ul> <p>Interim effluent and/or groundwater/surface water limitations based on historic salinity load and shall not exceed an EC concentration of 2,200 us/cm as a 30-day running average.</p> <p>An EC to TDS ratio of 0.64 shall be used unless a discharge-specific ration can be demonstrated.</p>	

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Water Quality Objective adjustment for Conservation and Recycling Efforts	No Drought and Conservation Plan for Salinity in the Basin Plans	Establish a temporary variance/exception from salinity-related standards where the TDS/EC concentrations in the permitted discharge is better (lower) than the TDS/EC concentration in the receiving water and will improve receiving water quality (even when the receiving water quality is higher than the SMCL) when conservation practices are in place.	<p><u>Alternative:</u> Interim salinity permit limits for permittees who have documented that conservation or recycling is causing increased salinity in their discharge may be based on one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Limits that do not exceed the receiving water concentration, provided that there are no unreasonable impacts to downstream/downgradient water quality; or</li> <li>b. Limits that reflect those for emergency conditions: limitations based on historic salinity load with maximums based either on an EC concentration of 2,200 uS/cm as a 30-day running average or as a load.</li> </ul> <p>An EC to TDS ratio of 0.64 shall be used unless a discharge-specific ration can be demonstrated.</p> <p><u>Alternative:</u> Discharge shall not exceed 1,600 µS/cm EC (no timeline provided)</p> <p><u>Alternative:</u> Do not include component in Drought and Conservation Policy</p>	
Assimilative Capacity	No Drought and Conservation Plan for Salinity in the Basin Plans	Pre-authorize automatic allocation of assimilative capacity to accommodate higher TDS concentrations during drought conditions.	<p><u>Alternative:</u> Do not include component in Drought and Conservation Policy</p>	