



Principles for Designating Surface Waters as MUN

- 1) The MUN use may not be removed or downgraded if it is an existing use.
- 2) MUN should be considered an existing use if the water has been used as a municipal or domestic supply since November 28, 1975 provided that the surface water diversion occurred in accordance with state and federal law.
- 3) MUN should be considered an existing use if water quality meets the objectives assigned to protect that use.
- 4) Systems designed or modified to collect or treat municipal or industrial wastewaters, process waters, mining wastewaters or storm water runoff should not be designated MUN.
- 5) Systems designed or modified for the primary purpose of conveying or holding agricultural drainage waters, as defined in Regional Board Resolution No. _____, should not be designated MUN.
- 6) The exceptions identified in #4 & #5 (above) apply only to waters of the state, that are not also waters of the U.S. Federal regulations [40 CFR 131.10(a)] prohibits the state from assigning waste transport as a designated use in any waters of the U.S.
- 7) Surface waters where the TDS concentration exceeds 3,000 mg/L (5,000 μ S/cm EC) should not be designated MUN if the waterbody is not reasonably expected to supply a public water system.
- 8) At a minimum, the Regional Board will consider the following factors, in a weight of evidence approach, to determine when a waterbody is not reasonably expected to supply a public water system:
 - a) The volume and reliability of available flows.
 - b) Federal and state laws regulating surface flow diversions.
 - c) State laws governing public health and safety.

- 9) Waterbodies that are not reasonably expected to supply a public water system may be able to serve as a source of drinking water supply for small communities or individuals and should be designated DOM (for "Domestic") where applicable.
- 10) Waterbodies should not be designated MUN where ephemeral, intermittent or low flows and hydrologic modifications prevent the use from being attain.
- 11) Waterbodies should not be designated MUN where state or federal law prohibits such surface water diversions.
- 12) Waterbodies contaminated by natural processes should not be designated MUN provided that the pollution precludes attainment of the use [40 CFR 131.10(g)(1)] and that the contamination cannot reasonably be treated for domestic use using Best Management Practices or best economically achievable treatment practices.
- 13) Waterbodies contaminated by human activity (unrelated to the specific pollution incident) should not be designated MUN provided that the pollution precludes attainment of the use and that the contamination cannot reasonably be treated for domestic use by using Best Management Practices or best economically achievable treatment or that correcting the contamination would cause more environmental problems than to leave the pollution in place [40 CFR 131.10(g)(4)].
- 14) At a minimum, the Regional Board will consider the following factors, in a weight-of-evidence approach, to determine when a waterbody is "contaminated" to the point where a MUN use is precluded:
 - a) Has the California Department of Public Health recommended against using the waterbody as a drinking water supply because it is an "extremely impaired source?"
 - b) Does the discharge of waste, including recycled water, make it unlikely that the waterbody will support a MUN use in the future?
 - c) Do one or more pollutants exceed the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) or other primary drinking water standard specified by federal or state law?
 - d) Is the waterbody on the state's 303(d) list for a pollutant that threatens or impairs a MUN use?

- 15) At a minimum, the Regional Board will use the following factors to determine when a waterbody cannot reasonably be treated for domestic use:
 - a) Surveys of Best Management Practices, including blending, in the water supply industry.
 - b) Surveys of Best Economically Achievable Treatment Practices (including flocculation, filtration, and disinfection processes) commonly used by the water supply industry.
 - c) Energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and other cross-media pollution impacts from advanced waste treatment.
 - d) Availability of acceptable alternative supplies at a reasonable price.
- 16) Where a waterbody is capable of supporting some domestic uses, other than drinking water supply, the Regional Board will consider designating it MUN-2 and establish appropriate site-specific objectives to protect the existing uses.
- 17) The Regional Board will consider segmenting a waterbody where necessary to ensure more accurate and precise designation of beneficial uses in order to facilitate greater application of integrated water resource management strategies.
- 18) The Regional Board must continue to establish water quality objectives necessary to protect the designated uses of a waterbody and the designated uses of any downstream waterbody.
- 19) Where existing water quality is better than necessary to protect the designated use, that higher water quality must be managed in accordance with federal and state antidegradation policies.
- 20) Where MUN or DOM are determined to be a potential use, but not an existing use, the Regional Board must establish water quality objectives that do not preclude the potential use from being attained if and when other factors constraining the use are eliminated.



Principles for Designating Ground Waters as MUN

- 1) The MUN use should not be removed or downgraded if it is an existing use.
- 2) MUN should be considered an existing use if the water has been used as a municipal or domestic supply.
- 3) MUN should be considered an existing use if water quality meets the objectives assigned to protect that use.
- 4) Ground waters where the TDS concentration exceeds 3,000 mg/L (5,000 μ S/cm EC) should not be designated MUN if the waterbody is not reasonably expected to supply a public water system.
- 5) At a minimum, the Regional Board will consider the following factors, in a weight of evidence approach, to determine when an aquifer is not reasonably expected to supply a public water system:
 - a) The available safe yield.
 - b) Pre-existing water demands on the same aquifer.
 - c) State laws governing public health and safety.
- 6) Groundwaters that are not reasonably expected to supply a public water system may be able to serve as a source of drinking water supply for small communities or individuals and should be designated DOM (for "Domestic") where applicable.
- 7) Groundwater sources that do not provide sufficient water to supply a single well capable of producing an average sustained yield of 200 gallons per day should not be designated MUN or DOM.
- 8) Groundwaters contaminated by natural processes should not be designated MUN provided that the contamination cannot reasonably be treated for domestic use using Best Management Practices or best economically achievable treatment practices.

- 9) Groundwaters contaminated by human activity (unrelated to the specific pollution incident) should not be designated MUN provided that the contamination cannot reasonably be treated for domestic use by using Best Management Practices or best economically achievable treatment.

- 10) At a minimum, the Regional Board will consider the following factors, in a weight-of-evidence approach, to determine when a groundwater is "contaminated" to the point where a MUN use is precluded:
 - a) Has the California Department of Public Health recommended against using the aquifer as a drinking water supply because it is an "extremely impaired source?"
 - b) Does the nearby discharge of waste, including recycled water, make it unlikely that the wells will meet the minimum separation requirements or minimum residence time requirements established by the California Department of Public Health?
 - c) Do one or more pollutants exceed the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) or other primary drinking water standard specified by federal or state law?

- 11) At a minimum, the Regional Board will use the following factors to determine when a waterbody cannot reasonably be treated for domestic use:
 - a) Surveys of Best Management Practices, including blending, in the water supply industry.
 - b) Surveys of Best Available Treatment Technology, including flocculation, filtration, and disinfection, used by the water supply industry.
 - c) Energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and other cross-media pollution impacts from advanced waste treatment.
 - d) Availability of adequate and acceptable alternative supplies at a reasonable and competitive price.

- 12) Where a waterbody is capable of supporting some domestic uses, other than drinking water supply, the Regional Board will consider designating it LIMITED MUN (MUN-2) and establish appropriate site-specific objectives to protect the existing uses.
- 13) The Regional Board will consider segmenting an aquifer, laterally or vertically, where necessary to ensure more accurate and precise designation of beneficial uses.
- 14) Where existing water quality is better than necessary to protect the designated use, that higher water quality must be managed in accordance with the state's antidegradation policy (SWRCB Resolution No. 68-16).
- 15) Where MUN or DOM are determined to be a potential use, but not an existing use, the Regional Board must establish water quality objectives that do not preclude the potential use from being attained if and when other factors constraining the use are eliminated.