STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

RESOLUTION NO. 60-16

STATEMENT OF POLICY WITH RESPECT TO MAINTAINING HIGH QUALITY OF WATERS IN CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS the California Legislature has declared that it is the policy of the State that the granting of permits and licenses for unappropriated water and the disposal of wastes into the waters of the State shall be so regulated as to achieve the highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State and shall be controlled in such a manner as to promote the peace, health, safety and welfare of the people of the State; and

WHEREAS water quality control policies have been and are being adopted for waters of the State; and

WHEREAS the quality of some waters of the State is higher than that established by the adopted policies and it is the intent and purpose of this Board that such higher quality shall be maintained to the maximum extent possible consistent with the declaration of the Legislature;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. Wherever the existing quality of water is better than the quality established by the policies as of the date on which such policies become effective, such existing higher quality will be maintained until it has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the State that any change will not be consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State, will not reasonably affect the use of such water and will not result in water quality lower than that prescribed in the policies.

2. Any activity which produces or may produce a waste or increase volume or concentration of waste or which discharges or proposes to discharge to existing high quality waters will result in the highest practicable treatment or control of the discharge necessary to assure that (a) a pollution of waste or discharge will not occur and (b) the highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State will be maintained.

3. In implementing this policy, the Secretary of the Interior will be kept advised and will be provided with such information as he will need to discharge his responsibilities under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.
68-16 Predates:

• EPA
• The Clean Water Act
• California’s Porter-Cologne Act
• Regional Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans)
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

RESOLUTION NO. 60-16

STATEMENT OF POLICY WITH RESPECT TO MAINTAINING HIGH QUALITY OF WATERS IN CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS the California Legislature has declared that it is the policy of the State that the grazing of permits and licenses for unappropriated water and the disposal of wastes into the waters of the State shall be so regulated as to achieve highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State and shall be controlled so as to promote the peace, health, safety and welfare of the people of the State; and

WHEREAS water quality control policies have been and are being adopted for waters of the State; and

WHEREAS the quality of some waters of the State is higher than that established by the adopted policies and it is the intent and purpose of this Board that such higher quality shall be maintained to the maximum extent possible consistent with the declaration of the Legislature;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. Whenever the existing quality of water is better than the quality established in policies as of the date on which such policies become effective, such existing high quality will be maintained until it has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Board that any change will be consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State, will not unnecessarily affect and not prevent beneficial use of such water and will not result in water quality less than that prescribed in the policies.

2. Any activity which produces or may produce a waste or increase in discharge of wastes which discharge or proposes to discharge to existing high quality waters will result in the best practicable treatment or control of the discharge necessary to assure that (a) a pollution or nuisance will not occur and (b) the highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State will be maintained.

3. In implementing this policy, the Secretary of the Interior will be kept advised and will be provided with such information as he will need to discharge his responsibilities under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.
The Rancho Caballero Case (1972)

• Receiving Water Quality = 900 mg/L

• Effluent Quality = 755 mg/L

• Basin Plan Objective = 700 mg/L
The Rancho Caballero Decision

*(SWRCB WQO #73-4)*

- Meet the water quality objective
- Change the water quality objective
- Prohibit the discharge
NOTE: This publication is meant to be an aid to the staff of the CDPH Drinking Water Program and cannot be relied upon by the regulated community as the State of California's representation of the law. The published codes are the only official representation of the law. Refer to the published codes—in this case, 17 CCR and 22 CCR—whenever specific citations are required. Statutes related to CDPH’s drinking water-related activities are in the Health & Safety Code, the Water Code, and other codes.

### Table 64449-B

**Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels**  
**“Consumer Acceptance Contaminant Level Ranges”**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constituent, Units</th>
<th>Maximum Contaminant Level Ranges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Recommended</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Dissolved Solids, mg/L</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Conductance, μS/cm</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloride, mg/L</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfate, mg/L</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) Each community water system shall monitor its groundwater sources or distribution system entry points representative of the effluent of source treatment every three years and its approved surface water sources or distribution system entry points representative of the effluent of source treatment annually for the following:

- (1) Secondary MCLs listed in Tables 64449-A and 64449-B; and
- (2) Bicarbonate, carbonate, and hydroxide alkalinity, calcium, magnesium, sodium, pH, and total hardness.

(c) If the level of any constituent in Table 64449-A exceeds an MCL, the community water system shall proceed as follows:

- (1) If monitoring quarterly, determine compliance by a running annual average of four quarterly samples;
- (2) If monitoring less than quarterly, initiate quarterly monitoring and determine compliance on the basis of an average of the initial sample and the next three consecutive quarterly samples collected;
- (3) If a violation has occurred (average of four consecutive quarterly samples exceeds an MCL), inform the Department when reporting pursuant to Section 64409;
- (4) After one year of quarterly monitoring during which all the results are below the MCL and the results do not indicate any trend toward exceeding the MCL, the system may request the Department to allow a reduced monitoring frequency.

(d) For the constituents shown on Table 64449-B, no fixed consumer acceptance contaminant level has been established.

- (1) Constituent concentrations lower than the Recommended contaminant level are desirable for a higher degree of consumer acceptance.
- (2) Constituent concentrations ranging to the Upper contaminant level are acceptable if it is neither reasonable nor feasible to provide more suitable waters.

Last updated June 21, 2012—from Titles 17 and 22 California Code of Regulations  
California Regulations Related to Drinking Water
Turning Points

- El Toro’s Groundwater Clean-up Permit

- Draft WDRs to Recharge State Project Water

- Roseville’s ASR Project for Potable Water
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

RESOLUTION NO. 68-16

STATEMENT OF POLICY WITH RESPECT TO
MAINTAINING HIGH QUALITY OF WATERS IN CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS the California Legislature has declared that it is the policy of the State that the granting of permits and licenses for unappropriated water and the disposal of wastes into the waters of the State shall be so regulated as to achieve highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State and shall be controlled so as to promote the peace, health, safety and welfare of the people of the State; and

WHEREAS water quality control policies have been and are being adopted for waters of the State; and

WHEREAS the quality of some waters of the State is higher than that established by the adopted policies and it is the intent and purpose of this Board that such higher quality shall be maintained to the maximum extent possible consistent with the declaration of the Legislature;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. Whenever the existing quality of water is better than the quality established in policies as of the date on which such policies become effective, such existing high quality will be maintained until it has been demonstrated to the State that any change will be consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State, will not unreasonably affect present and anticipated beneficial use of such water and will not result in water quality less than that prescribed in the policies.

2. Any activity which produces or may produce a waste or increased volume or concentration of waste and which discharges or proposes to discharge to existing high quality waters will be required to meet waste discharge requirements which will result in the best practicable treatment or control of the discharge necessary to assure that (a) a pollution or nuisance will not occur and (b) the highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State will be maintained.

3. In implementing this policy, the Secretary of the Interior will be kept advised and will be provided with such information as he will need to discharge his responsibilities under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.
“Live long and prosper.”
Leonard Nimoy
1931-2015
Updating 68-16

• Calculating Assimilative Capacity
• Defining Best Practicable Treatment or Control (BPTC)
• Identifying “Maximum Benefit”
• Permitting Options if No Assimilative Capacity
• Special Considerations for Groundwater
• Integrating with Other Important State Policies:
  
  Conservation, Recycled Water, Recharge, Title-22