

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 88-63
(as revised by Resolution No. 2006-0008
and Resolution No. 2015-0002)

ADOPTION OF POLICY ENTITLED
“SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER”

WHEREAS

1. California Water Code section 13140 provides that the State Board shall formulate and adopt State Policy for Water Quality Control; and,
2. California Water Code section 13240 provides that Water Quality Plans “shall conform” to any State Policy for Water Quality Control; and,
3. The Regional Boards can conform the Water Quality Control Plans to this policy by amending the plans to incorporate the policy; and,
4. The State Board must approve any conforming amendments pursuant to Water Code section 13245; and,
5. “Sources of drinking water” shall be defined in the Water Quality Control Plans as those water bodies with beneficial uses designated as suitable, or potentially suitable, for municipal or domestic water supply (MUN); and,
6. The Water Quality Control Plans do not provide sufficient detail in the description of water bodies designated MUN to judge clearly what is, or is not, a source of drinking water for various purposes.
7. On February 1, 2006, the State Board adopted Resolution No. 2006-0008, which amended this policy to establish a site-specific exception for Old Alamo Creek. The rationale for the site-specific exception is contained in the resolution and in State Board Order WQO 2002-0015, II.A.2.d.
8. On January 20, 2015, the State Board adopted Resolution No. 2015-0002, which amended this policy to establish a site-specific exception for groundwater in portions of the Royal Mountain King Mine site in Calaveras County. The rationale for the site-specific exception is contained in the staff report that supported Central Valley Water Board Resolution R5-2014-0047.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

All surface and ground waters of the State are considered to be suitable, or potentially suitable, for municipal or domestic water supply and should be so designated by the Regional Boards¹ with the exception of:

1. Surface and ground waters where:

- a. The total dissolved solids (TDS) exceed 3,000 mg/L (5,000 uS/cm, electrical conductivity) and it is not reasonably expected by Regional Boards to supply a public water system, or
- b. There is contamination, either by natural processes or by human activity (unrelated to the specific pollution incident), that cannot reasonably be treated for domestic use using either Best Management Practices or best economically achievable treatment practices, or
- c. The water source does not provide sufficient water to supply a single well capable of producing an average, sustained yield of 200 gallons per day, or
- d. One of the following site-specific exemptions applies:
 - i. Old Alamo Creek
 - ii. Groundwater within the area of the Royal Mountain King Mine Site shown in Attachment 1 of the Central Valley Water Board Resolution R5-2014-0047.

2. Surface Waters Where:

- a. The water is in systems designed or modified to collect or treat municipal or industrial wastewaters, process waters, mining wastewaters, or storm water runoff, provided that the discharge from such systems is monitored to assure compliance with all relevant water quality objectives as required by the Regional Boards; or,
- b. The water is in systems designed or modified for the primary purpose of conveying or holding agricultural drainage waters, provided that the discharge from such systems is monitored to assure compliance with all relevant water quality objectives as required by the Regional Boards.

¹ This policy does not affect any determination of what is a potential source of drinking water for the limited purposes of maintaining a surface impoundment after June 30, 1988, pursuant to Section 25208.4 of the Health and Safety Code.

3. Ground water where:

The aquifer is regulated as a geothermal energy producing source or has been exempted administratively pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations, section 146.4 for the purpose of underground injection of fluids associated with the production of hydrocarbon or geothermal energy, provided that these fluids do not constitute a hazardous waste under 40 CFR, section 261.3.

4. Regional Board Authority to Amend Use Designations:

Any body of water which has a current specific designation previously assigned to it by a Regional Board in Water Quality Control Plans may retain that designation at the Regional Board's discretion. Where a body of water is not currently designated as MUN but, in the opinion of a Regional Board, is presently or potentially suitable for MUN, the Regional Board shall include MUN in the beneficial use designation.

The Regional Boards shall also assure that the beneficial uses of municipal and domestic supply are designated for protection wherever those uses are presently being attained, and assure that any changes in beneficial use designations for waters of the State are consistent with all applicable regulations adopted by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Regional Boards shall review and revise the Water Quality Control Plans to incorporate this policy.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Clerk to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a policy duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on May 19, 1988, amended on February 1, 2006, and on January 20, 2015.



Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board