

CEQA Scoping Meeting on Proposed Updates to the Basin Plan

*Chino Basin
Maximum Benefit Salt and Nutrient Management Plan*



Keith Person P.E., Recycled Water Section Supervisor

CEQA Scoping Meeting

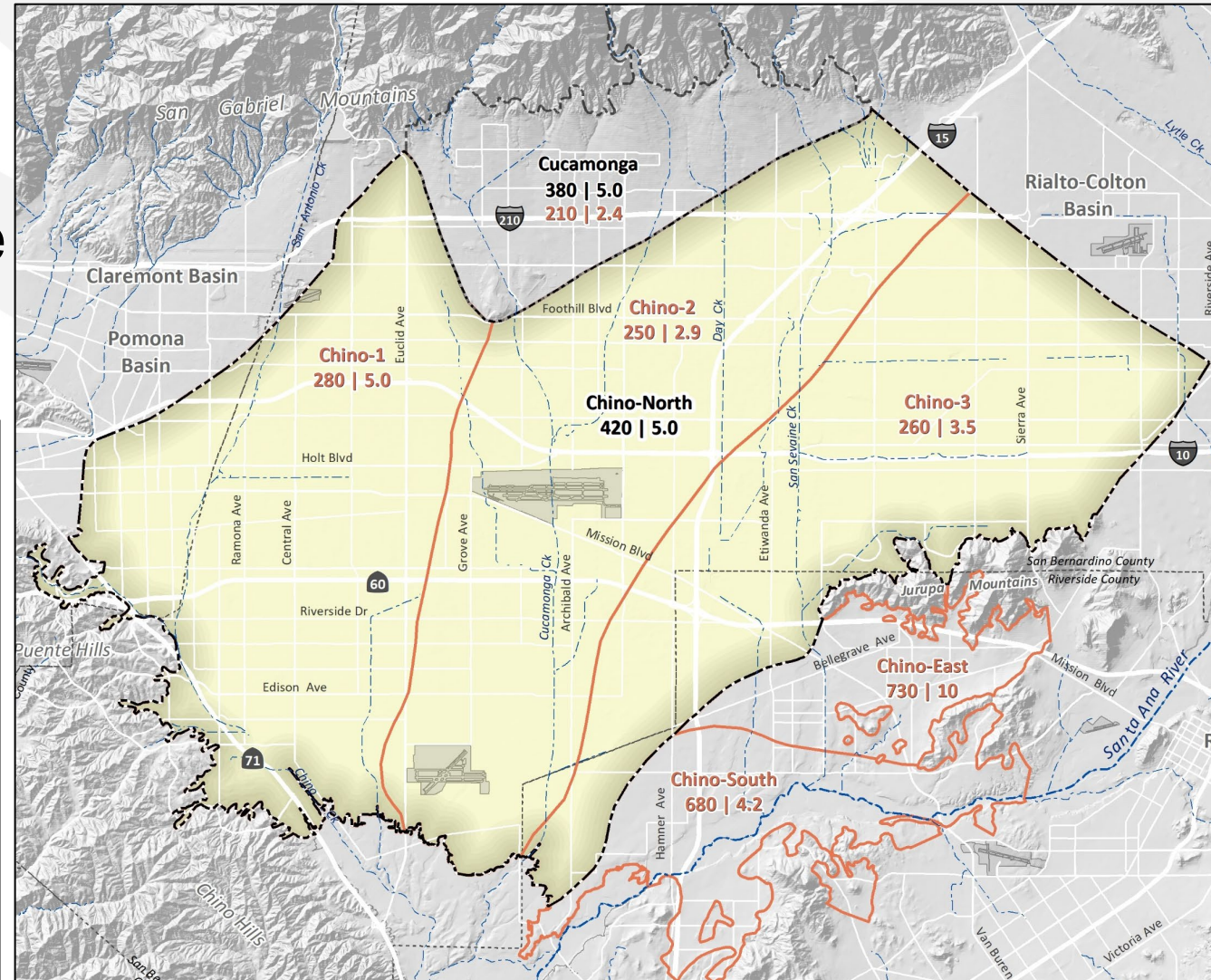
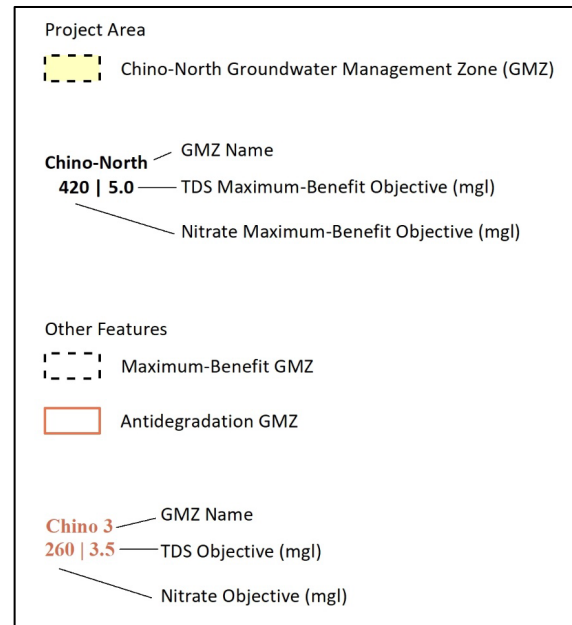
- Scoping Meeting held pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21083.9
- Substitute Environmental Documents (SED) will be prepared pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.5

Presentation Outline

- Groundwater Management Zone (GMZ) Background
- Salt and Nutrient Management Plan Chino Basin GMZ
- Basin Plan Amendment Project Description
- Problem Statements
- Technical Demonstrations
- Existing Maximum Benefit Commitments
- Consistency with Policies
- Substitute Environmental Document
- Basin Plan Amendment Schedule/Next Steps

Salt and Nutrient Management Plan Chino Basin GMZ

The Chino Basin Maximum Benefit SNMP was incorporated into the Basin Plan as part of the 2004 Basin Plan Amendment



Chino Basin Maximum Benefit SNMP

- Established maximum benefit TDS and nitrate objective for Chino-North and Cucamonga GMZs to enable basin-wide recycled water use and recharge program using water from the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA)
- Defined 9 management commitments to protect the beneficial uses of the GMZs
- Defined the Chino Basin Watermaster and IEUA as the agencies responsible to implement the SNMP

Problem Statement – Watermaster/IEUA

- IEUA's action level for TDS and N is 545 mg/l and 8 mg/l, respectively
- IEUA's 12-month effluent compliance metric is influenced by the State Water Project (SWP) and is reactive to climate conditions and water conservation practices
 - IEUA's 12-month effluent compliance metric for total dissolved solids reached 534 mg/L, nearing the action limit of 545 mg/L, for three consecutive months in 2015 during statewide drought conditions
 - Following the drought, SWP water and effluent TDS concentrations decreased
- It is expected that occurrence of more frequent and severe droughts will likely cause short-term, periodic exceedances of IEUA's 12-month effluent compliance metric
- IEUA and the Chino Basin Water Master hypothesized that short term exceedances based on a 12-month compliance metric will not harm beneficial uses and agencies requested revised compliance metric based on a longer-term averaging period

Problem Statement – Jurupa Community Services District (JCSD)

- JCSD, which is an active member agency to Watermaster, plans to use recycled water, in-lieu of producing groundwater, for outdoor irrigation
- JCSD service area overlies Chino-North, -South, -East and parts of Riverside GMZs
- Assimilative capacity in Chino-North created by the Chino Basin SNMP is only accessible to the responsible parties (IEUA and Watermaster)
- JCSD is located outside of the IEUA's service area and wants to utilize recycled water supply available in its service area (e.g. non-IEUA supplies)
- JCSD has requested to be named as a responsible party to the Maximum Benefit SNMP to maximize its recycled water use

Basin Plan Amendment Project Description

Amend the Chino Basin Maximum Benefit SNMP defined in Chapter 5 of the Basin Plan to:

- Modify IEUA's TDS effluent and recharge compliance metrics to be based on a 10-year volume-weighted running average*
- Add JCSD as a responsible agency for implementing the SNMP
- Enable non-IEUA recycled waters to be used in Chino-North GMZ to maximize recycled water use

*Note that this does not modify IEUA's TDS effluent or recharge limits

Basin Plan Amendment Project

Description (continued)

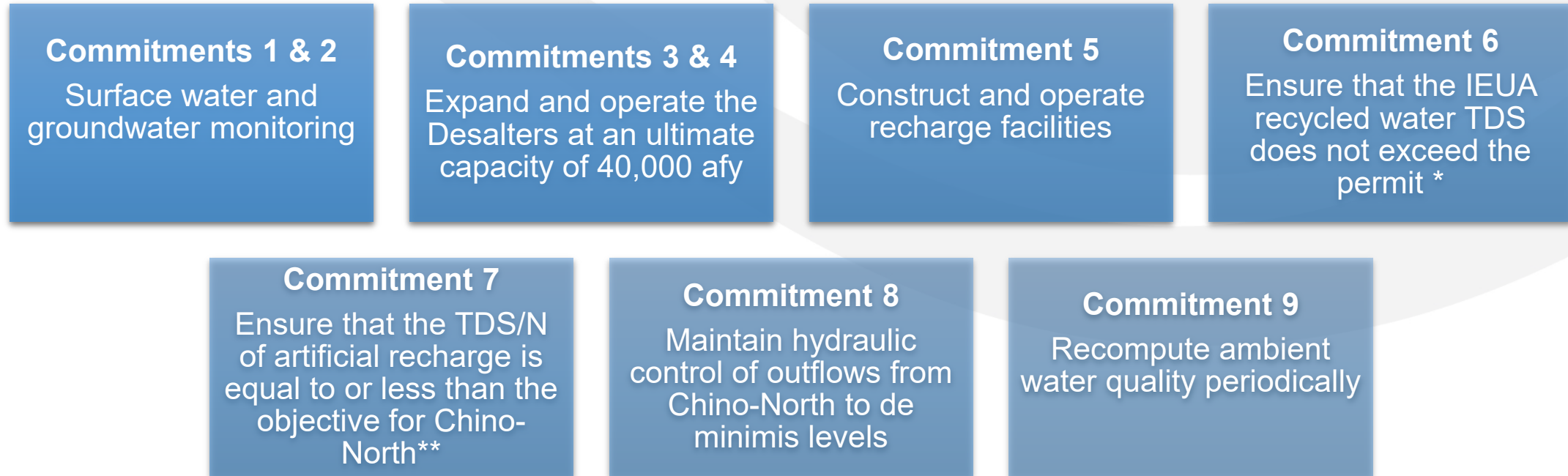
Amend the Chino Basin Maximum Benefit SNMP defined in Chapter 5 of the Basin Plan to:

- Add a new commitment to require responsible agencies to:
 - Develop plan to address limitations of the Chino Basin Water Quality Model within 2 years of Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approval
 - Update and use the model to project TDS and nitrate concentrations for the Chino-North GMZ approximately every five years
- Require an update to the surface water and groundwater monitoring program work plans that were last updated in 2012

Technical Demonstrations and Regulatory Strategy

- Groundwater quality fate and transport modeling, analysis of regulatory strategies, and groundwater and water supply impact assessments were performed to demonstrate that the proposed changes to the SNMP will not impact ability to protect beneficial uses
- Regional Board staff worked many years with stakeholders in preparing technical analyses, reviewing interim results, and determining the appropriate regulatory strategy to amend the Basin Plan:
 - Watermaster and IEUA started the effort in 2017
 - JCSD started the effort in 2021

Existing Maximum Benefit Commitments



*TDS permit limit is 550 mg/L. The action limit to develop a plan to improve effluent water quality is 545 mg/L. Compliance with permit limit is based on 12-month volume-weighted running average of the IEUA agency-wide effluent TDS concentration (effluent compliance metric)

** TDS objective of Chino-North is 420 mg/L, compliance is based on five-year volume-weighted running average of all recharge sources (imported, storm, and recycled waters) (recharge compliance metric)

Consistency with Policies

The proposed actions were reviewed and found to be consistent with the:

- Antidegradation Policy (Executive Order 68-16)
 - The proposed amendment was found to be protective of water quality.
- 2021 Basin Plan Amendment (R8-2021-0025)
 - The Santa Ana Water Board can, at its discretion, impose shorter or longer averaging periods (not to exceed 120 months or 10 years) based on case-by-case evaluations that consider actions being implemented to manage salinity in the GMZ
- 2019 Recycled Water Policy
 - Increase the use of recycled water
 - Require periodic evaluation of the models and effectiveness of the plan elements every five years

Substitute Environmental Document (SED)

The Water Board seeks public comments on the SED regarding the following areas:

- Appropriate scope and content
- Range of actions, alternatives
- Mitigation measures, and
- Significant environmental effects

Basin Plan Amendment Schedule/Next Steps

- CEQA Scoping comments due: November 30, 2024
- Draft SED: December 2024
- Scientific Peer Review: December 2024 to May 2025
- Draft BPA amendment package: July 2025
- Board hearing/SED certification: July to September 2025

Please send your comments to:

Keith Person, P.E.

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

3737 Main Street, Ste 500

Riverside, CA 92501

Keith.Person@waterboards.ca.gov