

CEQA Scoping Meeting: Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for the Lower Santa Clara River Basin (LSCRB)

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control
Board in conjunction with LSCRB Stakeholders

February 26, 2015

Meeting Agenda

- Background on the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan Requirement (*RB Staff*)
- CEQA -Regulatory Background (*RB Staff*)
- Implementation Alternatives (*LSCRB Stakeholders*)
- CEQA Checklist (*LSCRB Stakeholders*)
- Q&A Session

Regulatory Background

Salt and Nutrient

management plan

December 2014



The Recycled Water Policy's SNMP Requirement



- Adopted February 2009
- Supports Strategic Plan Priority to promote sustainable local water supply
 - Optimize recycled water use
- Ensure long term beneficial use of water
 - Protect basin water quality

Achieving a Balance



- Policy recognizes that increased Recycled Water Use may increase pollutant loading to groundwater basins
- Policy achieves balance through Salt & Nutrient Management Plan requirement

Stakeholder Process



- Collaborative process
 - Local water and wastewater entities
 - Local salt/nutrient contributing stakeholders
 - Open to all stakeholders
- Locally driven and controlled
- Stakeholder funded
- Regional Board Participation

Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) Requirement

- SNMPs for every basin/sub-basin in the state
 - Consistent scope, detail dependent on site-specific factors
 - May address constituents other than salts and nutrients
 - Inclusion of stormwater recharge/ reuse component is critical
 - Completion by 2014
 - Implementation plans to be adopted by Regional Water Boards as Basin Plan Amendments.
 - Compliance with CEQA

CEQA -Regulatory Background

- California Environmental Quality Act = CEQA
- State and Regional Boards' basin planning process has been certified by the Secretary of Resources as exempt from certain requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), including preparation of an initial study, negative declaration, and environmental impact report (14 CCR §15251(g)).
- [A] lead agency shall call at least one scoping meeting for [a] project of statewide, regional, or areawide significance (Public Resources Code §21083.9).

CEQA -Regulatory Background-2

The “certified regulatory program” of the Regional Board, however, must satisfy substantive requirements (23 CCR §3777 (a))

- Written report including a description of the proposed activity
- Alternatives analysis
- Identification of mitigation measures
- Environmental checklist

Program Alternatives

- Considered by State Board as part of Policy Adoption
 - Earlier Version of Policy (March, 2008)
 - No Project
 - Current Policy (February, 2013)

SNMP Elements

- Basin-wide Monitoring
- Annual CEC Monitoring
- Water Recycling/Stormwater Recharge
- Source Identification/Assimilative Capacity/Loading
- **Implementation Measures**
- Anti-degradation Analysis

Potential Environmental Impacts

- Potentially Significant Impact
- Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
- Less than Significant
- No Impact

Meeting Agenda

- Regulatory Context (RWQCB Staff)
 - Background on the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan Requirement
 - CEQA -Regulatory Background
- SNMP Overview (*LSCR Stakeholders*)
- CEQA Checklist (*LSCR Stakeholders*)
- Q&A Session

SNMP Overview

Salt and Nutrient

management plan

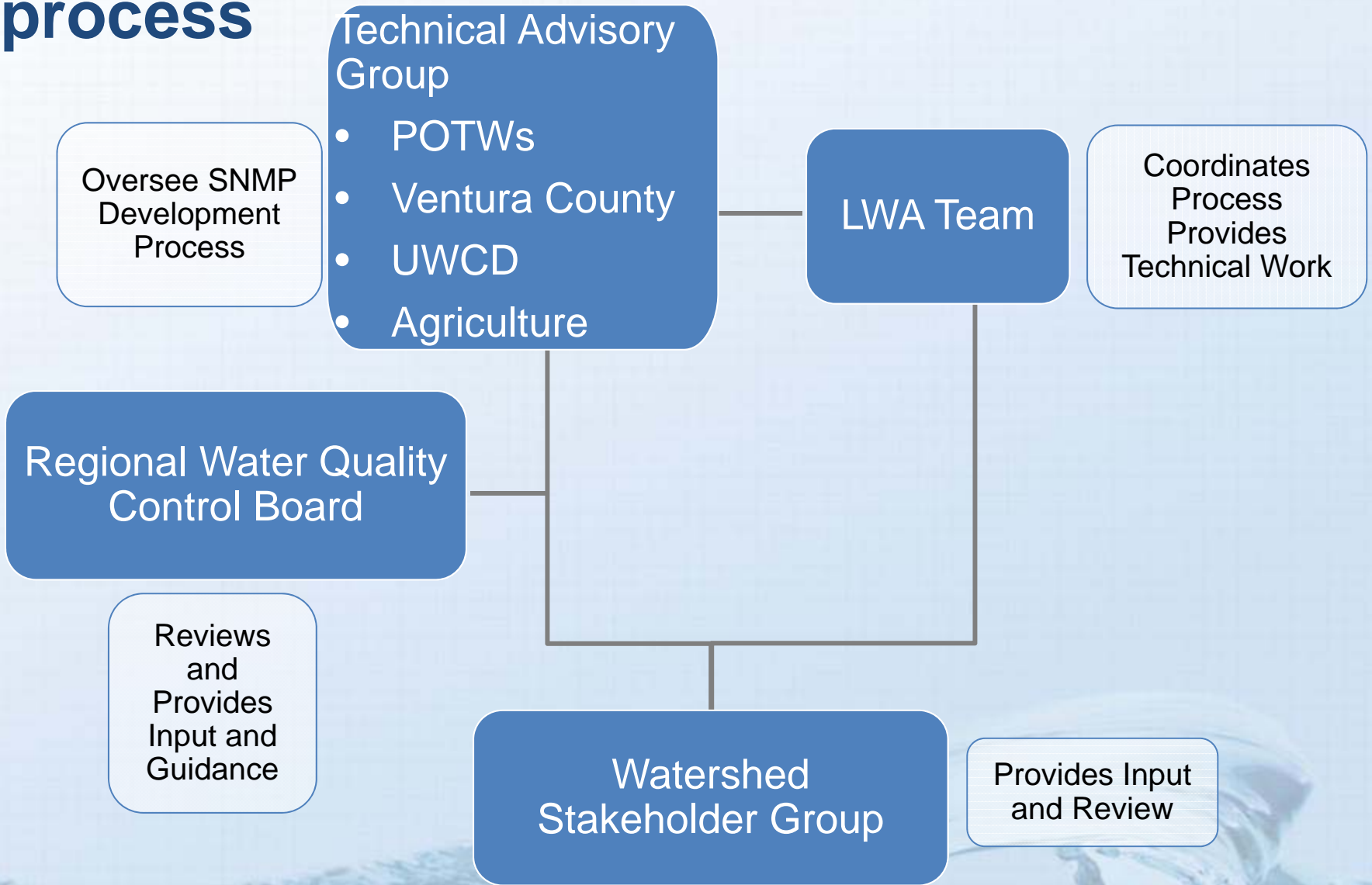
December 2014



Who We Are – Lower Santa Clara River SNMP Group

- Group Established in August 2011
- Hold Quarterly Meetings – District is Administrative/Technical/Grant Lead
- Cost Sharing Memorandum of Agreement
- \$397,000 in Proposition 84 DWR Grant Funding
- Total Project Budget = \$531,530
- Multi-Disciplinary Consultant Team

SNMP developed through a stakeholder process

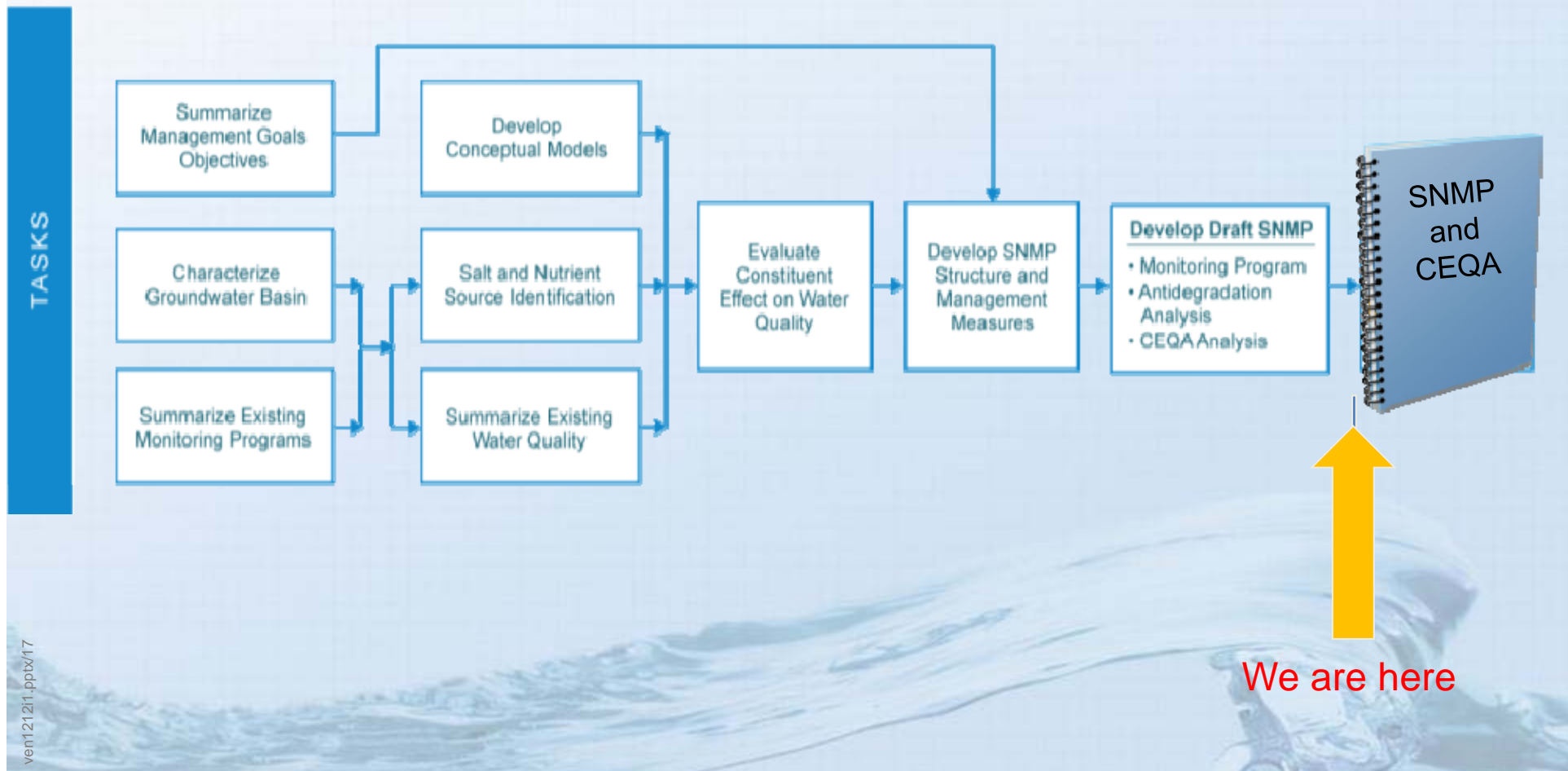


Where We Are – Near End of Project Workplan

Data Gathering

Data Analysis

Develop SNMP



SNMP Status

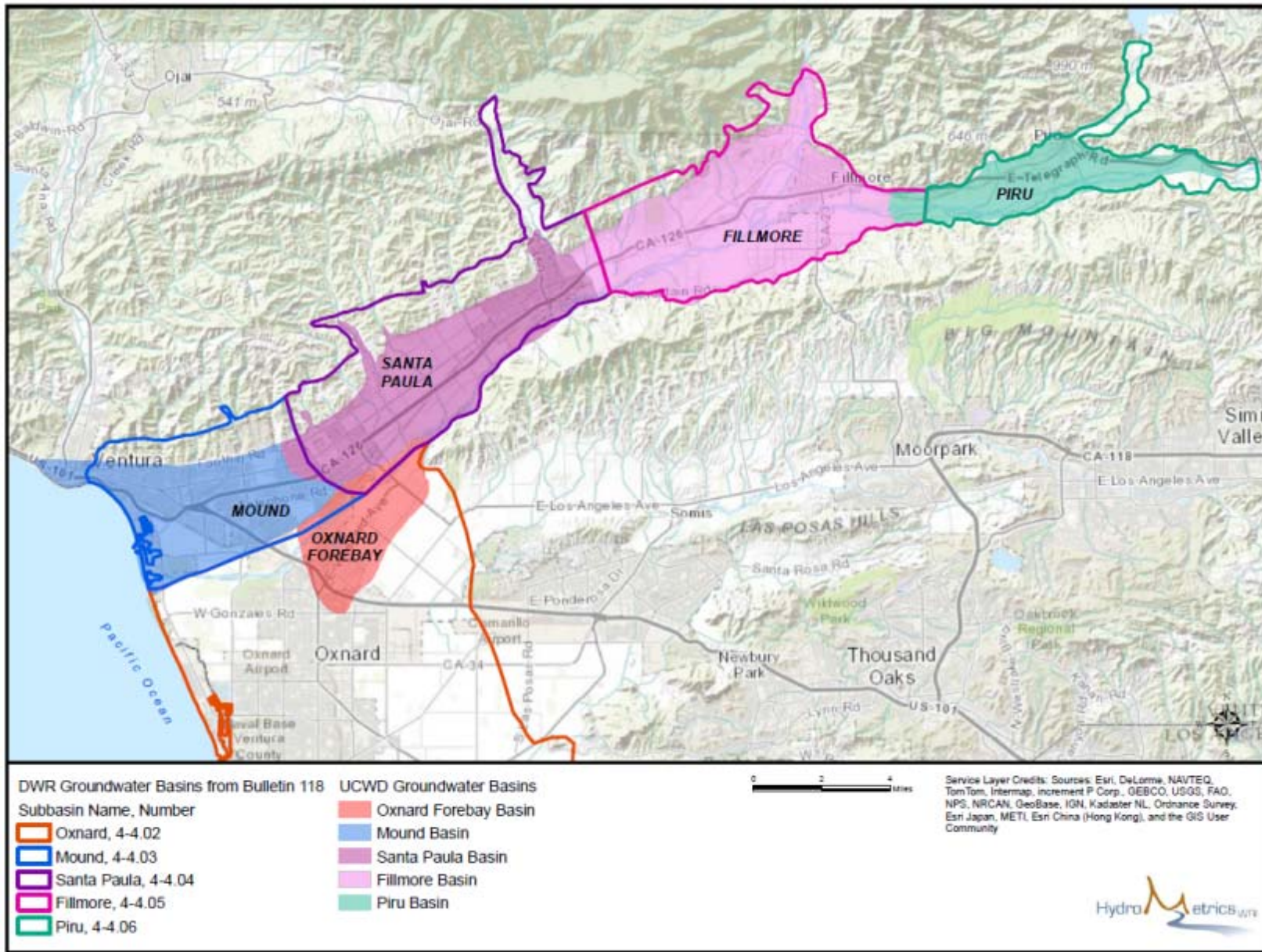
- Submitted Draft SNMP for RWQCB and Public Review in October 2014
 - Received and addressing RWQCB comments
 - No public comments received to date
- Draft Supplemental Environmental Document will be finalized after input from meeting today
- SED and revised draft SNMP to RWQCB in March
- Targeted adoption of SNMP by RWQCB in June

Characteristics of the LSCR basin

- Groundwater protection is important to community
 - Large portion of local water supply
- Need flexible SNMP to provide analysis and process to support implementation of projects in future
 - Analysis of status of groundwater basins
 - Process for evaluating projects
 - Management measures

Focus of SNMP is on management of increased recycled water use in the basin

LSCR SNMP planning area



Sources Overview

- 8 Small POTWs
 - All Discharge to Percolation Ponds except Ventura
 - Several Recently Upgraded, but No Salt Removal
 - Flows have been Stable or Decreasing
- Agriculture
- Urban areas
- Upper Santa Clara River loadings

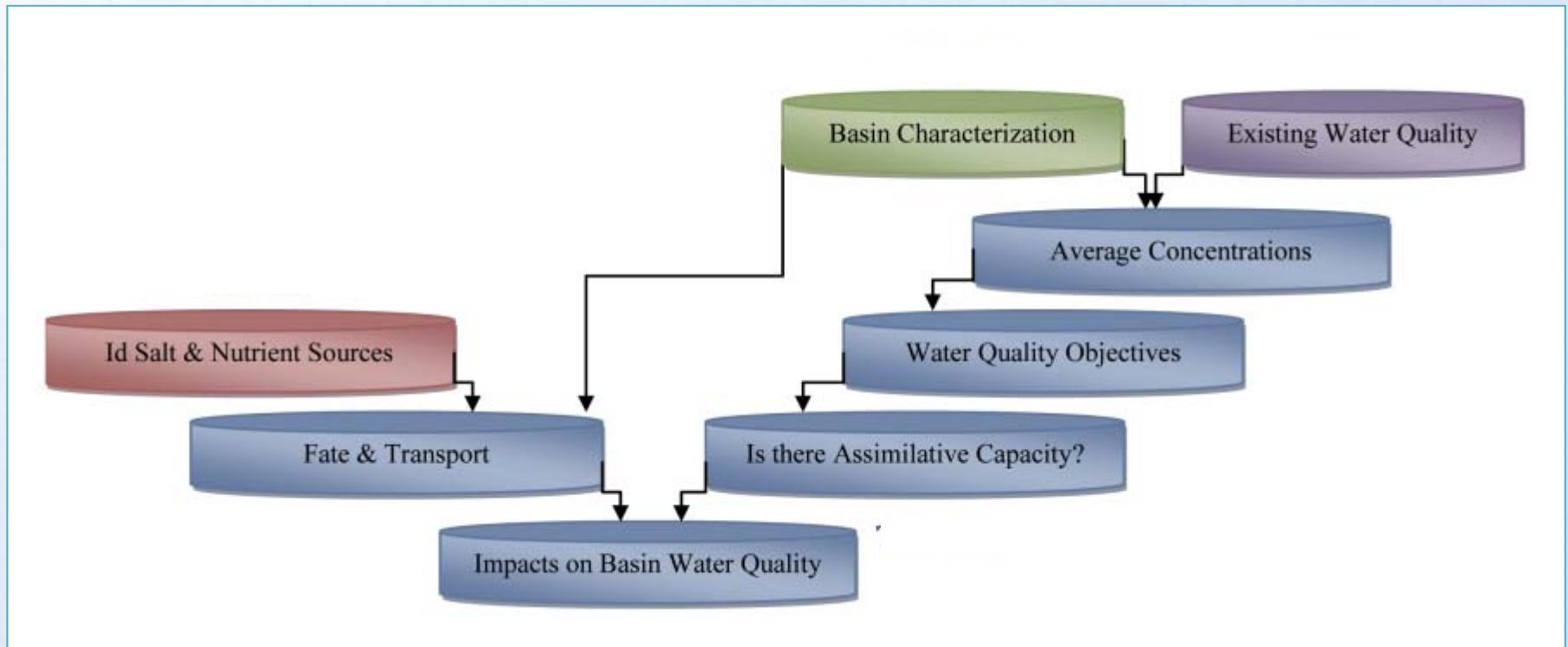
POTW	Built	Upgraded	Current Flow
Santa Paula	1939	2010	2 MGD
Fillmore	1955	2009	1 MGD
Piru	1974	2010	0.2 MGD
Ventura	1960	2011	9 MGD

Future sources anticipated to be unchanged or improved

Proactively implementing management measures

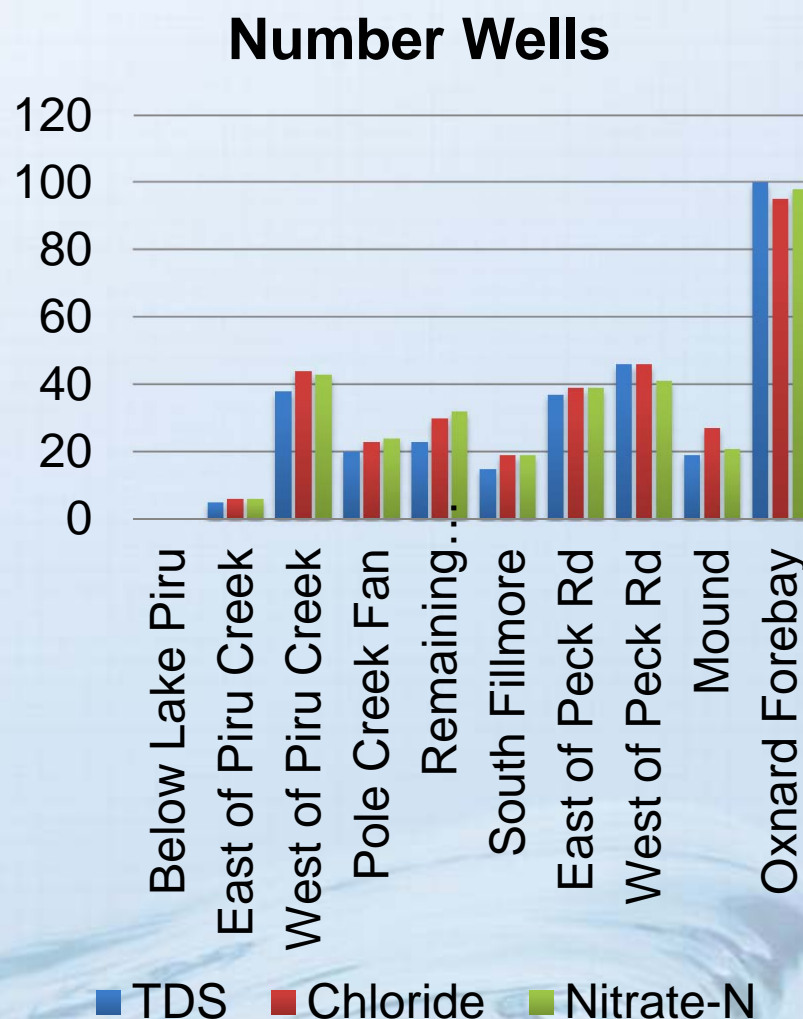
- New water softener prohibitions/Incentives to remove water softeners
- Upgrades to and construction of new WWTPs
- Commercial and industrial brine discharge prohibition
- Septic tank policy
- Agricultural BMPs
- Infiltrate stormwater

Used Existing Data & Models To Characterize Basins, & Identify Assimilative Capacity

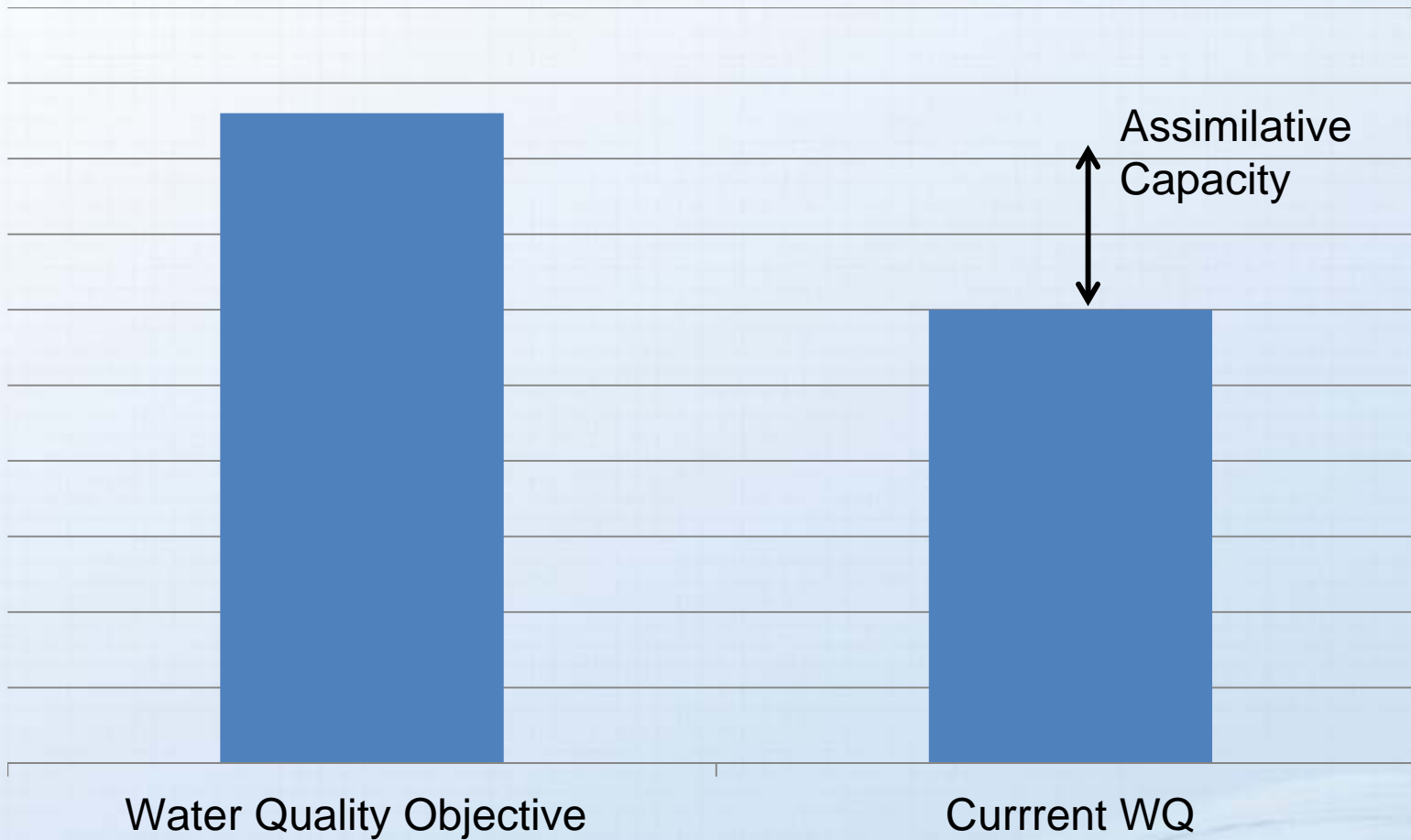


Data Review

- Utilized all available well data
 - 1997-2012 period for analysis
- Looked at trends over time through box plots
- Evaluated variation in individual wells
 - Compared the median and 90th percentile of wells with >10 data points



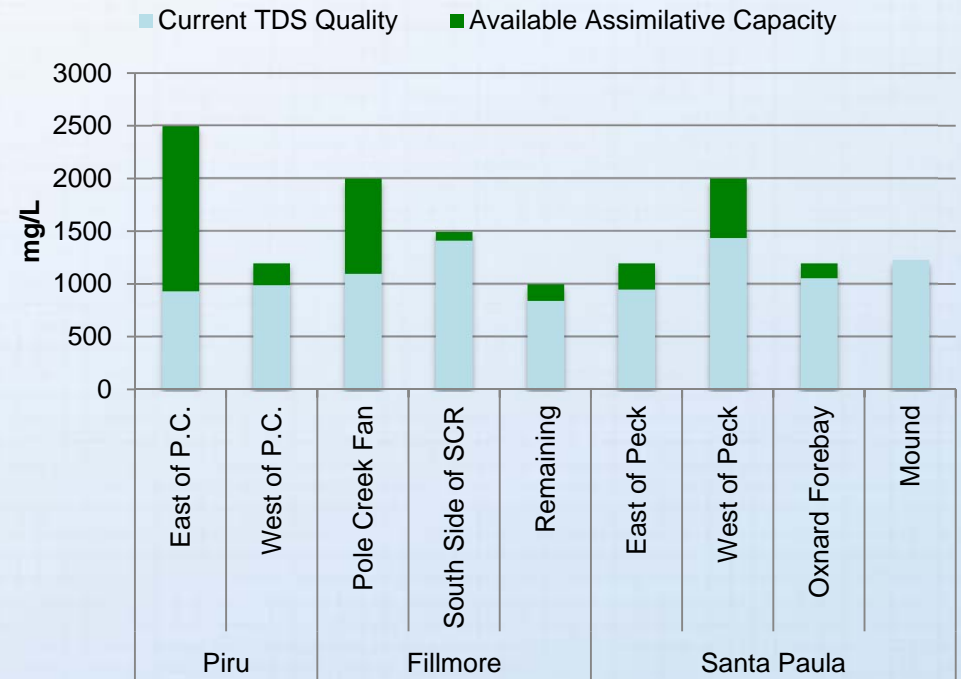
What is Assimilative Capacity?



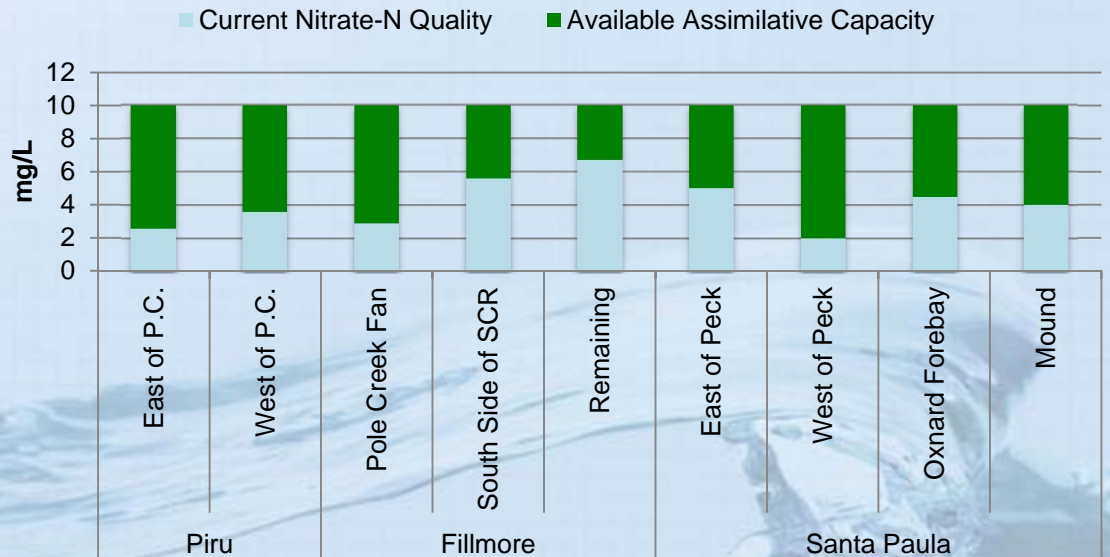
Chloride Assimilative Capacity



TDS Assimilative Capacity



Nitrate-N Assimilative Capacity



Area Weighted Avg
Concentration
Demonstrate
Existing
Assimilative
Capacity in All but
One Sub-basin

		Scenario 1 (lbs/d)		Scenario 2 (lbs/d)		Scenario 3 (lbs/d)		Scenario 4 (lbs/d)
		Piru Basin-Lower Area West of Piru Creek						
Piru Estimated Project Load	TDS	167		3,312		3,312		
	Chloride	22		433		433		
	Nitrate	0.1		3		3		
		Fillmore Basin-Pole Creek Fan Area						
Fillmore Estimated Project Load	TDS	0		0		12,724		
	Chloride	0		0		1,066		
	Nitrate	0		0		36		
		Santa Paula Basin						
		West of Peck Road	East of Peck Road	West of Peck Road	East of Peck Road	West of Peck Road	East of Peck Road	
Santa Paula Estimated Project Load	TDS	0	3,580	0	14,515	15,235	34,078	
	Chloride	0	447	0	1,811	1,901	4,253	
	Nitrate	0	20	0	80	84	187	
		Mound Basin						
Ventura Estimated Project Load	TDS	665		16,629		49,076		32,447
	Chloride	130		3,239		9,598		6,359
	Nitrate	4		89		252		163

Notes:

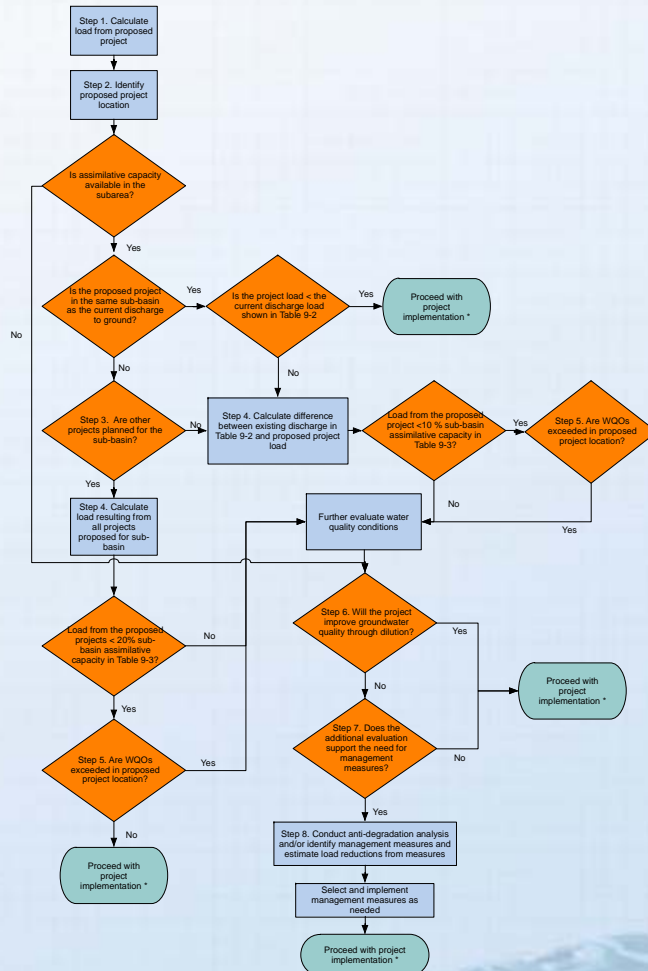
Green boxes indicate the project load is below the 10% assimilative capacity threshold.

Yellow boxes indicate the project load is between the 10% and 20% assimilative capacity thresholds.

Orange boxes indicate the project load is above the 20% assimilative capacity threshold.

Red boxes indicate that no assimilative capacity is available.

Process Flow Chart – To Evaluate Future Projects & Identify Potential Management Strategies



*Contingent upon compliance with other regulatory requirements

- Calculate loading
- Compare to available capacity
- Evaluate local conditions
- Conduct additional evaluation if needed
- Select management measures
- Consider other conditions

Potential Future Management Measures

- Source control
 - Additional water softener restrictions
 - Local limit modifications
- Septic system conversion program
- Source water treatment
 - Softening to reduce water softener needs
 - Treatment to remove salts
- Wastewater treatment to remove salts
- Stormwater recharge
- Additional agricultural BMPs

Management Measures-Potential Future

Category	Measure	Description
Wastewater and reclaimed water quality	Source control	Water softener ban in the City of Ventura, and unincorporated areas of the County (within the LSCR SNMP)
Wastewater and reclaimed water quality	Source control – industrial pretreatment	Modification of City of Ventura local limits
Wastewater and reclaimed water quality	Advanced treatment	RO Treatment to remove salts from wastewater effluent
Septic system leachate	Source control - leachate	Septic system conversion program to provide connections to sewers
Municipal Water Quality	Softening of groundwater supplies	Regional water softening to reduce hardness and need for residential softeners

Management Measures-Potential Future

Category	Measure	Description
Municipal Water Quality	Advanced treatment of compromised groundwater supplies	Treatment to remove salts from groundwater supplies and regional brine line
Municipal Water Quality	Replace/augment compromised groundwater supplies	Desalination to replace existing groundwater supplies
Stormwater Recharge	Groundwater recharge with stormwater	Capture and recharge of stormwater

CEQA Checklist

Salt and Nutrient
management plan



Environmental Checklist

- Water Quality
- Earth
- Natural Resources
- Energy
- Noise
- Archeological / Historical
- Air
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Plant and Animal Life
- Light and Glare
- Risk of Upset
- Human Health
- Transportation / Circulation
- Recreation
- Land Use
- Population
- Housing
- Public Service
- Aesthetics
- Utilities and Service Systems

Potential Environmental Impacts

Will the proposed project result in?

Water Quality

- a. Changes in currents or direction of water
- b. Changes in absorption rates, drainage, or runoff
- c. Flow of flood waters
- d. Amount of surface water
- e. Alteration of surface water quality
- f. Alteration of direction or flow rate of groundwater
- g. Change in quantity or quality of groundwater
- h. Reduction in water for public supplies
- i. Water related hazards such as flooding

Water Quality

- SNMP intended to manage salt and nutrients in the groundwater consistent State's Recycled Water Policy – potentially beneficial impact to water quality
- Generate additional recycled water and provide additional recharge to the groundwater basin – potentially beneficial impact to water quantity
- Sites for many of the implementation measures have not yet been identified, where necessary to address impacts programmatic mitigation will be identified

Potential Environmental Impacts

Will the proposed project result in?

Earth

- a. Unstable earth
- b. Soil disruptions or compaction
- c. Change in topography
- d. Modification of geologic features
- e. Wind and water erosion
- f. Modification of channels, bays etc.
- g. Geologic hazards (e.g., landslides)

Earth

- Sites for many of the implementation measures have not yet been identified, programmatic mitigation will be identified, where necessary, to address impacts

Potential Environmental Impacts

Will the proposed project result in?

Noise

- a. Increases in existing noise levels
- b. Exposure of people to severe noise levels

Noise

- Potential temporary increases from construction activities
- Potential permanent increases from operation
- Sites for many of the implementation measures have not yet been identified, programmatic mitigation will be identified, where necessary, to address impacts

Potential Environmental Impacts

Will the proposed project result in?

Archaeological/Historical

- a. Increases in existing noise levels
- b. Exposure of people to severe noise levels

Archaeological/Historical

- Unlikely on previously disturbed sites
- Sites for many of the implementation measures have not yet been identified, programmatic mitigation will be identified, where necessary, to address impacts

Potential Environmental Impacts

Will the proposed project result in?

Plant Life/Animal Life

- a. Change in diversity or number of plant or animal species
- b. Reduction of unique, rare or endangered plant or animal species
- c. Introduction of new species
- d. Reduction in agricultural acreage
- e. Deterioration of existing habitat

Plant Life/Animal Life

- 42 sensitive animal species identified within study area and 5 mile buffer.
- 26 sensitive plant species located within the same area
- Potential for projects to occur in proximity to Santa Clara River and its estuary – sensitive habitat
- Sites for many of the implementation measures have not yet been identified, programmatic mitigation will be identified, where necessary, to address impacts

Potential Environmental Impacts

Will the proposed project result in?

Light and Glare

- a. Produce new light and glare

Aesthetics

- a. Obstruction of scenic vista open to the public
- b. Creation of offensive site open to public view

Light and Glare

- Potential temporary increases from construction activities
- Potential permanent increases from operation

Aesthetics

- Sites for many of the implementation measures have not yet been identified, programmatic mitigation will be identified, where necessary, to address impacts

Potential Environmental Impacts

Will the proposed project result in?

Transportation/Circulation

- a. Generation of additional vehicular movement
- b. Impact on existing parking, new parking
- c. Impact on transportation systems
- d. Alterations to patterns of movement of people or goods
- e. Alterations to water, rail or air traffic
- f. Increase in traffic hazards

Transportation/Circulation

- Potential temporary increases in traffic during construction activities
- Programmatic mitigation will be identified, where necessary, to address impacts

Potential Environmental Impacts

Will the proposed project result in?

Land Use

- a. Alteration of land use

Population

- a. Alter location, distribution, density or growth of human population

Housing

- a. Affect existing housing or create additional demand

Land Use

- Programmatic mitigation will be identified, where necessary, to address impacts

Population

- No housing is proposed in SNMP
- Some minor job creation anticipated

Housing

- Displacement of housing not anticipated
- Substantial increases in population not anticipated

Potential Environmental Impacts

Will the proposed project result in?

Natural Resources

- a. Increased rate of use of natural resources
- b. Depletion of nonrenewable natural resource

Energy

- a. Use of substantial fuel or energy
- b. Increase in demand or development of new sources of energy

Natural Resources

- Would commit renewable and nonrenewable resources required for construction and operation
- Reduces reliance on limited potable water supplies by increasing the use of recycled water

Energy

- New or upgraded facilities would increase demand for energy
- Designs are available at this time
- Programmatic mitigation will be identified, where necessary, to address impacts

Potential Environmental Impacts

Will the proposed project result in?

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions directly or indirectly and cause significant impact
- b. Conflict with adopted plan or policy for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gases

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Increase in water treatment would require additional energy resulting in GHG emissions
- Increased use of recycled water could reduce energy demand associated with water pumping and conveyance
- Programmatic mitigation will be identified, where necessary, to address impacts

Potential Environmental Impacts

Will the proposed project result in?

Air

- a. Air emissions, deterioration of air quality
- b. Creation of objectionable odors
- c. Alteration of air movement

Air

- Potential for significant air emissions during construction and operation
- Development of new projects could result in exposure of people to odors
- Programmatic mitigation will be identified, where necessary, to address impacts

Potential Environmental Impacts

Will the proposed project result in?

Risk of Upset

- a. Risk of explosion or release of hazardous substances

Human Health

- a. Creation of health hazards
- b. Exposure of people to health hazards

Risk of Upset

- Potential for risk during construction and operation
- Sites/design for many of the implementation measures have not yet been identified, programmatic mitigation will be identified, where necessary, to address impacts

Human Health

- Potential for risk during construction and operation
- Sites/design for many of the implementation measures have not yet been identified, programmatic mitigation will be identified, where necessary, to address impacts

Potential Environmental Impacts

Will the proposed project result in?

Recreation

- a. Impacts to quality or quantity of recreational opportunities

Public Services

The need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas

- Fire protection
- Police protection
- Schools
- Parks or other recreation
- Maintenance of facilities (e.g. roads)
- Other government services

Recreation

- Substantial population increase not anticipated

Public Services

- Construction activities would be subject to applicable building and safety and fire prevention regulations and codes
- Substantial population increase not anticipated

Potential Environmental Impacts

Will the proposed project result in?

Utilities and Service Systems Utilities and Service Systems

A need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:

- a. Power or natural gas
- b. Communications systems
- c. Water
- d. Sewers or septic tanks
- e. Storm water drainage
- f. Solid waste disposal

- No impacts to communications or septic tanks or stormwater drains anticipated
- SNMP should improve water quality
- Solid waste would be addressed by existing regs
- Potential increases in the requirement for energy

Potential Environmental Impacts

Does the proposed project have?

Mandatory Findings of Significance

- a. Potential to degrade the environment
- b. Potential to achieve short-term (benefits) to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals
- c. Cumulatively considerable impacts
- d. Substantial adverse effects on human beings

Mandatory Findings of Significance

- Potential for these impacts to occur
- Programmatic mitigation will be identified, where necessary, to address impacts

Useful Websites

State Water Resources Control Board Recycled Water Policy Website Page

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_recycling_policy/

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board SNMP Website Page

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4/water_issues/programs/salt_and_nutrient_management/index.shtml

Santa Clara River Watershed Website

<http://www.scrwatershed.org/>

CEQA Comments

Additional Comments Due By: 5:00 PM, March 9, 2015

1. State comments verbally during this meeting
2. Complete the provided Comment Card & hand to LARWQCB before the end of this meeting
3. E-mail comments to: Ginachi.Amah@waterboards.ca.gov

**(Please indicate "CEQA for Lower Santa Clara River SNMP" as the Subject)*

4. Mail written comments to:

Dr. Ginachi Amah

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

320 West 4th Street, Suite 200

Los Angeles, CA 90013

Questions

LARWQCB

Contact: Dr. Ginachi Amah

(213) 576-6685

ginachi.amah@waterboards.ca.gov

LSCR SNMP (Ventura County Watershed Protection District)

Contact: Ms. Zoe Carlson

805.654.2032

Zoe.Carlson@ventura.org