

## Handout #3 - Preliminary & Final Management Zone Proposal Requirements

<b><u>Highlights</u> of Preliminary &amp; Final Management Zone Proposal Requirements</b>
<b><i>Preliminary Management Zone Proposal (PMZP)</i></b>
<p><u>Identify or Establish:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Proposed preliminary boundaries of the Management Zone (MZ) area;</li><li>– Initial MZ participants/dischargers and other potential participants;</li><li>– Initial assessment of groundwater conditions;</li><li>– Current treatment and control efforts, or management practices;</li><li>– Initial identification of public water supplies or domestic wells within the MZ area with nitrate concentrations exceeding the water quality objective;</li><li>– Areas within/adjacent to the MZ that overlap with other management areas/activities;</li><li>– Early Action Plan (EAP) to address drinking water needs for those relying on wells with nitrate levels exceeding the water quality objective;</li><li>– Proposed timeline for (a) identifying additional participants; (b) further defining boundary areas; (c) developing proposed governance/funding structure for MZ administration; (d) additional evaluation of groundwater conditions across the MZ boundary area, if necessary; and (e) submittal of Final Management Zone Proposal and a Management Zone Implementation Plan; and</li><li>– Optional: Other constituents of concern that MZ will address.</li></ul>
<b><i>Final Management Zone Proposal (FMZP)</i></b>
<p><u>Update PMZP to Include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Timeline for development of the Management Zone Implementation Plan;</li><li>– Updated list of participants;</li><li>– Governance structure;</li><li>– Additional evaluation of groundwater conditions across MZ area (as needed);</li><li>– Proposed approach for regulatory compliance;</li><li>– How MZ intends to interact and/or coordinate with similar efforts, e.g., pursuant to the SGMA; and</li><li>– Documentation of actions taken to implement the EAP.</li></ul>

### **Specific Preliminary Management Zone Proposal Regulatory Requirements (Basin Plan Amendment)**

Preliminary Management Zone Proposal must include all of the following unless otherwise approved by the Central Valley Water Board's Executive Officer:

- i. Proposed preliminary boundaries of the Management Zone area;
- ii. Identification of Initial Participants/Dischargers;
- iii. Identification of other dischargers and stakeholders in the management zone area that the initiating group is in contact with regarding participation in the Management Zone;
- iv. Initial assessment of groundwater conditions based on readily available existing data and information (May use default information in or referenced by, the Central Valley SNMP or provide supplemental information that includes water quality conditions in the upper zone);

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- v. Identification/summary of current treatment and control efforts, or management practices (If the discharger seeking compliance through this option is a third party submitting the NOI on behalf of the individual members of the third party, the third party will need to take reasonable efforts to summarize the management practices being used by its members with respect to protecting groundwater quality from the impacts of nitrates from member farming operations);
- vi. Initial identification of public water supplies or domestic wells within the Management Zone area with nitrate concentrations exceeding the water quality objective;
- vii. An Early Action Plan to address drinking water needs for those that rely on public water supply or domestic wells with nitrate levels exceeding the water quality objective;
- viii. Documentation of process utilized to identify affected residents and the outreach utilized to ensure that they are given the opportunity to participate in development of an Early Action Plan;
- ix. Identification of areas within or adjacent to the Management Zone that overlap with other management areas/activities;
- x. Any constituents of concern that the individual discharger/group of dischargers intend to address besides nitrate (not required but is an option available); and
- xi. Proposed timeline for:
  - Identifying additional participants;
  - Further defining boundary areas;
  - Developing proposed governance and funding structure for administration of the Management Zone;
  - Additional evaluation of groundwater conditions across the management zone boundary area, if necessary; and,
  - Preparing and submitting a Final Management Zone Proposal and a Management Zone Implementation Plan.

#### ***Final Management Zone Proposal Regulatory Requirements (Basin Plan Amendment)***

The Final Management Zone Proposal must include all information from the Preliminary Management Zone Proposal, updated as necessary, as well as the following:

- i. Timeline for development of the Management Zone Implementation Plan;
- ii. Updated list of participants;
- iii. Governance structure that, at a minimum, establishes the following: (a) roles and responsibilities of all participants; (b) identification of funding or cost-share agreements to implement short term nitrate management projects/activities, which may include local, state and federal funds that are available for such purposes; and (c) a mechanism to resolve disputes among participating dischargers;
- iv. Additional evaluation of groundwater conditions across management zone area, if necessary;
- v. Identification of proposed approach for regulatory compliance (i.e., use of assimilative capacity and/or seeking approval of an exception for meeting nitrate water quality objectives);
- vi. Explanation of how the management zone intends to interact and/or coordinate with other similar efforts such as those underway pursuant to the SGMA; and,
- vii. Documentation of actions taken to implement the Early Action Plan.