

CFWI Regulatory Team
Salinity Subgroup Options
10/17/2016

(1) Whether there needs to be a numeric limit for saline water interface or whether that term is needed at all.

- Yes – There is level of salinity that should not be degraded by consumptive use withdrawals in order to protect to the water resources and future reasonable-beneficial demands. Such uses include domestic self-supply and agriculture. Consumptive use of water above the numeric saline water interface is considered as the use of saline water and regulated by its respective criteria. Protection of salinity levels above the numeric saline water interface is considered in interference with existing legal uses of water.
- Uncertain – There is a wide range of salinity tolerance for the variety of crops and urban landscape irrigated within CFWI. If the chosen salinity level is to accomplish resource protection and equitable access to water from water users, the path to accomplish both is uncertain.

(2) Whether there is a need to define (with or without a numeric limit) “fresh water” and “saline water.”

- Yes – The terms must be defined to specify their usage in consumptive use permitting within the CFWI area.
 - Potential definitions:
 - fresh water - Water that contains less than or equal to (500 or 1,000) milligrams per liter (mg/L) of total dissolved solids (TDS).
 - saline water - Water that contains greater than (500 or 1,000) mg/L of TDS, but less than 35,000 mg/L of TDS.
 - seawater - Water having a TDS concentration greater than or equal to 35,000 mg/L.
 - saline water interface – Any plane or surface within the transition zone between fresh water and saline water that is defined by a concentration of (500 or 1,000) mg/L of TDS.
 - saline water intrusion – The lateral movement of saline water into fresh water including any movement of saline surface or ground water into a fresh water surface water body.
 - upconing – Upward migration of saline water, which underlies fresh water in the same or different aquifers, into fresh water as a result of consumptive use withdrawals.
- No – However, in the spirit of collaboration, definitions could be set only if caveated language such as SFWMD currently uses is included. Any definitions would then be considered more like guidelines that can be exceeded under specific circumstances. This would compromise the level of protection to some degree while allowing for well field management practice and conjunctive water used in marginal water quality areas.
 - Allowances should also be made to address accelerated water quality degradation below any established standards.