

**DRAFT Comment Summary and Responses:
Proposed Approval of Site Specific Objectives for New Alamo and Ulatis Creeks (Solano County)**

No.	Representative	Company
1	Debbie Webster	Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA)

No.	Author	Comment	Response
1.1	Debbie Webster (CVCWA)	<p>CVCWA is pleased to support amendments to the Basin Plan providing for SSOs for the lower segments of New Alamo and Ulatis Creeks for chloroform (46 µg/l), DBCM (4.9µg/l), and DCBM (16 µg/l). The adoption of basin plan amendments is within the authority of the regional water boards. (Wat. Code, § 13240.) Additionally, the amendments would aid in the achievement Objective 4.3 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012, which sets a goal to accomplish near-term priority basin plan amendments that incorporate State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) requirements and stakeholder interests. (Strategic Plan Update 2008-2012, State Water Resources Control Board, Sept. 2, 2008, at p. 29.) CVCWA commends the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Central Valley Water Board) amendment to the plan which recognizes that the SSOs will provide for the reasonable protection of municipal (MUN) beneficial use of segment waters, present no significant adverse impact to the environment, and cost-efficiently resolve compliance issues pertaining to the operation of the City of Vacaville's Easterly WWTP.</p> <p>The SSOs incorporated in the Central Valley Water Board's Resolution No. R5-2010-0047 protect the most highly exposed human water users to a maximum risk level of 10-4, in compliance with the California Toxics Rule (65 FR 31,68.) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recommended human health criteria for chloroform. Peer-reviewed scientific studies</p>	<p>State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff agrees with Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA) and appreciates its comments and support.</p>

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		<p>commissioned by the Central Valley Water Board, and performed following the requirements of the Health and Safety Code section 57004, indicate that the proposed amendments would not pose a significant threat to human health. (Health & Saf. Code, § 57004.) In addition, the Central Valley Water Board found that the amendments would not impose adverse environmental effects and are consistent with state and federal anti-degradation policies. In sum, the lack of a threat to human health and the environment supports approval of the Basin Plan amendment.</p>	
1.2	Debbie Webster (CVCWA)	<p>Further, the Central Valley Water Board’s Resolution marks the consummation of a nearly decade long process to respond to an SWRCB order that directed the Central Valley Water Board to address water quality standards issues associated with Old Alamo Creek, and its tributaries. (See SWRCB Order WQO 2002-0015.) While supportive of the amendments, CVCWA believes that both the SWRCB and the Central Valley Water Board need to develop a more streamlined and practical process for the consideration of beneficial use designations, and application of appropriate water quality objectives, including SSOs. Currently, the Basin Plan improperly designates many waterbodies due to the generic application of blanket designations through the tributary footnote and the incorporation of Resolution No. 88-63. To now re-evaluate those blanket designations and the water quality objectives applicable to the beneficial uses, municipalities like Vacaville and others are being forced to spend millions of dollars to right a wrong that was done</p>	<p>This comment is related to the process of water body designations and the application of water quality objectives, which is not the subject of this particular amendment. However, the State Water Board supports statutory changes to streamline the State Board process for approving regional board basin plans.</p> <p>State Water Board staff encourages CVCWA to continue dialog with the Central Valley Water Board to address any specific concerns. The Central Valley Water Board has included Beneficial Use Designations and Regulatory Guidance to Address Water Bodies Dominated by NPDES Discharges as priority issues in the current Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Valley Region, Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins (Basin Plan).</p> <p>The Central Valley Water Board is currently accepting comments regarding the current Triennial Review for the Basin Plan after which a public hearing will be conducted in October 2011. That hearing would be an appropriate forum to address these concerns.</p>

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	<p>over 20 years ago. The Basin Plan amendment for the New Alamo and Ulatis Creek SSOs is just one example of the extreme burden placed on municipalities in seeking to ensure that water quality standards are appropriate for any given receiving water. The determination of what are the appropriate beneficial uses and applicable water quality objectives for specific water bodies should not be this difficult.</p> <p>Accordingly, CVCWA supports the need for a more efficient process for the consideration of revisions to water quality standards. A more streamlined regulatory approach is needed to update waterbody designations and save both the state and the regulated community much-needed time and to better allocate water quality resources. Nine years from an order raising these issues to a proposed amendment for SSOs is too long. Ideally, the New Alamo and Ulatis Creek SSOs will highlight this cumbersome process and provide an illustration as to why a more efficient process is necessary.</p> <p>For these reasons, CVCWA requests that the SWRCB approve the proposed amendments for SSOs for the lower segments of New Alamo and Ulatis Creeks while also considering methods to streamline this time-consuming process.</p>	<p>The Notice of Public Hearing concerning the Triennial Review for the Basin Plan can be found here:</p> <p>http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/triennialreviews.shtml</p>
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