

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13-14, 2014

Prepared October 20, 2014

ITEM NUMBER: 12

**SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2014
TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR
THE CENTRAL COASTAL BASIN**

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SUMMARY

Staff prepared a "Triennial Review" of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan). The purpose of the Triennial Review is to identify and prioritize important water quality and watershed protection issues that staff may later develop into Basin Plan amendments.

The Triennial Review is required by state and federal law. Section 303(c) of the federal Clean Water Act requires water quality standards be reviewed and revised, if appropriate, on a triennial basis. Section 13240 of the California Water Code requires basin plans to be periodically reviewed and allows for their revision. Additionally, the Triennial Review process affirms the general adequacy of the Basin Plan in areas not recommended for revision.

Staff initiated the review by distributing a *Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment* and a *Brief Issue Descriptions* document at the beginning of the 45-day public comment period from July 30, 2014 to September 15, 2014. Staff held a public workshop on August 25, 2014, which was attended by four members of the public. We received 11 comment letters.

After consideration of public comments from interested persons, staff developed the *Triennial Review Report* (Attachment 2). The report includes a detailed description of each issue, a summary of public comments and staff responses, and a priority evaluation score for each issue. Staff evaluated the issues by assigning a numeric score based on the following ranking criteria: vision alignment, water quality standards improvement, effectiveness, and public interest. The report concludes with a list of priority issues that will be evaluated as potential Basin Plan amendments. The report also includes an estimate of the projects that staff can evaluate to amend the Basin Plan during the next three years (prior to the next Triennial Review) based on the staff resources available (two personnel years).

The end-product of the Triennial Review is a prioritized list of water quality and watershed protection issues that can be addressed by amending the Basin Plan. This prioritized list is included in the Triennial Review Report (Attachment 2). Staff recommends approval of the prioritized list as presented in the Triennial Review Report, by Resolution No. R3-2014-0054 (Attachment 1).

Upon approval of the prioritized list, Central Coast Water Board staff will evaluate the issues and may develop proposed Basin Plan amendments for consideration by the Central Coast

Water Board. Only the Central Coast Water Board can approve proposed amendments to the Basin Plan. Staff would develop proposed amendments in a public process with input from all interested stakeholders.

COMMENTS

We received comment letters from the following: Dr. Edo McGowan (three letters), Dr. John Ackerman, Willy Cuhna, City of Santa Cruz, City of Lompoc, Greenspace Cambria Land Trust, City of Santa Maria, and the Grower Shipper Association of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. Comments are summarized and responded to as associated with each issue description in the Triennial Review Report (Attachment 2). Entire comment letters are available at the following website:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/publications_forms/publications/basin_plan/triennial_review/docs/tri_rev_comment_letters_2014.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt draft Resolution No. R3-2014-0054 (Attachment 1) completing the 2014 Triennial Review process. Adoption of the resolution concludes the Triennial Review, approves a priority list of issues to be evaluated as future Basin Plan amendments, and affirms the general adequacy of the Basin Plan in areas not under revision.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Resolution No. R3-2014-0054 with 2014 Triennial Review Priority List
2. Triennial Review Report, November 2014