

STAFF REPORT

The Triennial Review is the means by which the Regional Board assesses whether the Basin Plan's water quality standards (i.e., the designated beneficial uses and the objectives which are designed to protect or enhance them) are adequate. The Triennial Review begins with a public comment period and workshop to gather information on problems. The Board staff makes a preliminary identification of water quality problems to stimulate discussion and provide focus to the workshop. Through public notice, people interested in commenting on the staff's preliminary problems or other water quality concerns have an opportunity to present written and oral comments to the Regional Board.

Following the workshop, staff will review all public comments as well as the Board's own information to develop a tentative final list of issues. The staff will also propose actions over the next three years for each problem on the list and identify the resources necessary to implement the actions. The actions may or may not result in amendments to the Basin Plan. The list of issues and actions constitute the Triennial Review work plan. In addition to the work plan, staff will summarize and respond to each comment. The work plan and response to comments will then be made available for a second round of comments.

Finally, staff will modify the work plan, respond to any new comments, and prepare a resolution to complete the Triennial Review for Board consideration. The resolution reaffirms the Basin Plan's standards until such time that actions implemented to address water quality problems result in the standard's revision.

The resolution, work plan, and comment summary is tentatively scheduled to be presented to the Regional Board for consideration at the June 2005 meeting. After Regional Board action, they are then forwarded to the State Board for approval.