
Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

Draft 2014 Triennial Review List

The following Issues are under consideration for Basin Plan review and update:

1. BENEFICIAL USE DESIGNATION OF SURFACE WATERS

Conduct region-wide surface water survey to evaluate appropriateness of beneficial uses and water quality objectives.

2. BENEFICIAL USE DESIGNATION OF AQUIFERS

Conduct region-wide groundwater survey to evaluate appropriateness of beneficial uses and water quality objectives. In particular:

- identify beneficial uses for individual aquifers within hydrologic units, and
- assess MUN designations for aquifers characterized in part by low well yield, or elevated total dissolved solids concentrations. Dedicinate or revise beneficial use where it is determined the use cannot be supported.

3. SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT

As part of a stakeholder effort, continue oversight of salt and nutrient management plan development for groundwater basins throughout Region 7 pursuant to the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board's) Recycled Water Policy.

4. DEVELOP POLICY TO ADDRESS THREATS TO GROUNDWATER FROM SEPTIC SYSTEM WASTEWATER DISCHARGES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Joshua Tree,
- Twentynine Palms
- La Quinta Cove, and
- along the I-10 corridor from North Palm Springs to Desert Hot Springs.

Evaluate strategies, density restrictions, and/or prohibitions to protect groundwater quality from septic system wastewater discharges.

5. EVALUATE POTENTIAL WATER QUALITY IMPACTS FROM SOLAR PROJECTS

At the request of stakeholders, evaluate water quality impacts (if any) from solar projects proposed for Imperial County; in particular, adverse impacts to the Salton Sea, groundwater quality, and water supplies to local communities.

6. CONSTITUENTS OF EMERGING CONCERN (CECS)

Develop a management and regulatory strategy for decision-making regarding actions to address CECs, particularly chemicals currently in use that appear to impact beneficial uses yet lack water quality objectives, and sufficient information on toxicity and environmental occurrence.

7. BACTERIA OBJECTIVES REVISION: *E. COLI* IN FRESHWATER AND *ENTEROCOCCUS* IN SALINE WATERS

Revise existing bacteria objectives to incorporate an *E. coli* objective for water contact recreation in fresh waters and an *Enterococcus* objective for water contact recreation in saline waters, consistent with State Water Board and USEPA guidance.

8. POLICY FOR INTERPRETING NARRATIVE WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES

Develop policy and implementation measures that provide a well-defined and consistent decision making process for interpreting/translating narrative basin plan objectives (e.g., objectives for bioaccumulation, biostimulatory substances, color, exotic vegetation, floating material) into numeric limits/thresholds for use in permits or TMDLs.

9. BIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR PERENNIAL AND INTERMITTENT STREAMS

Develop biological objectives for perennial and intermittent streams, an effort currently underway by the State Water Board and in Region 7 via the SWAMP program, which is midway through a 3-year bioassessment study to:

- (1.) inventory and characterize the biological and chemical health of perennial and intermittent streams, and
- (2.) identify/measure the cumulative responses of all sources of stress to biological communities.

The objectives will be useful for implementing regulatory programs (TMDL, NPDES, NPS monitoring, etc.).

10. NUTRIENT (INCLUDING AMMONIA) WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES

Develop water quality objectives for nutrients in fresh waters consistent with USEPA's recently released (2013) water quality criteria.

11. WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVE FOR COPPER

Develop site specific objectives for copper in fresh waters using the Biotic Ligand Model, consistent with USEPA's recently released (2013) water quality criteria.

12. WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVE FOR RESIDUAL CHLORINE

Develop water quality objectives for residual chlorine pursuant to State Water Board and USEPA guidance.

13. COMPREHENSIVE BASIN PLAN EDITORIAL REVISIONS

Revise and update paragraphs, tables, figures, and references in the Basin Plan as needed.