

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
8:30 A.M., Thursday, August 22, 2013
Santa Rosa, California

- ITEM: 7
- SUBJECT: Update on the 2011 Triennial Review List of Priorities and the Strategy for the 2014 Triennial Review of the Basin Plan (*Alydda Mangelsdorf*)
- BOARD ACTION: This is an informational item. No action will be taken by the Regional Water Board.
- BACKGROUND: Water quality control plans (basin plans) provide the basis for protecting water quality in California. Section 13240 of Porter-Cologne and Section 303 (c)(1) of the CWA require a review of basin plans at least once during each three-year period to keep pace with changes in regulation, new technologies, policies, and physical changes within the region. The Regional Water Board is responsible for this review, and is required to:
- 1) Identify those portions of the Basin Plan which are in need of modification or new additions;
 - 2) Adopt standards as appropriate; and
 - 3) Recognize those portions of the Basin Plan which are appropriate as written.
- DISCUSSION: The last Triennial Review of the Basin Plan for the North Coast Region was completed in September 2011 and resulted in a short list of Basin Planning priorities which has guided the work efforts of the Planning and TMDL units since that time. There are 4 staff in the Planning Unit comprising 3.5 positions and 5 staff in the TMDL Unit comprising 4.8 positions on the identified projects. The Resolution adopted by the Regional Water Board on September 29, 2011 and attached list of priorities can be found on our website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/111013_tr/100929_res_11-0091_trirev.pdf.
- In summary, the short list prioritized revisions to the Basin Plan as necessary to develop and incorporate: 1) seven TMDL Action Plans (Elk, Freshwater, Eel, Navarro, Mattole, Russian and Laguna de Santa Rosa); 2) a Temperature Implementation Policy; 3) an update

of the groundwater protection strategy (Phase I and Phase II); 4) an update of the dissolved oxygen (DO) objectives; and 5) an Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Policy.

Short List Projects Status

- Public release of the Peer Review Draft Sediment TMDL for the Upper Elk River, scientific peer reviewer comments, and staff responses to comments. Also, initiation of a team to develop a Waste Discharge Requirements for implementation of the TMDL;
- Compilation of technical information in support of the development of a sediment TMDL for Freshwater Creek;
- Action Plans drafted to implement the temperature TMDLs developed for the Eel, Navarro and Mattole River watersheds. These Action Plans are in review by a panel of scientific peer reviewers;
- Continued technical analysis of the pathogen impairment in the Russian River, including assessment of the concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria, as well as quantification of animal sources. Impact of septic systems on bacterial water quality has also been a focus of the analyses;
- Continued technical analysis of phosphorus, nitrogen, dissolved oxygen, sediment and temperature impairments in the Laguna de Santa Rosa with substantial staff investment in early implementation of control measures;
- Submittal to a panel of scientific peer reviewers, a draft of the Policy for the Implementation of the Water Quality Objectives for Temperature;
- Development of proposed revised water quality objectives and a policy for the translation of narrative objectives to support groundwater and surface water protection, including staff report and CEQA analysis for public review (i.e., Phase I of the groundwater strategy);
- Internal scoping of a basin planning project to incorporate the State's Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Policy, address the State's Recycled Water Policy, and incorporate a program for the discharge of waste to land (Phase II of the groundwater strategy);
- Development of the technical support document for revision of the DO objective;
- Development of the technical support document for an exemption from discharge prohibitions for large-scale restoration projects.

Staff will provide an oral update to the Regional Water Board on its plans to complete these tasks.

Staff is also anticipating the next Triennial Review of the Basin Plan which is scheduled for 2014. As part of the 2014 review, staff will:

- Assess the 2011 Triennial Review priority list;
- Review the Basin Plan against new EPA and State Water Board regulations, policies, and guidance;
- Consider the example of other basin plans in the State;
- Consult with Board members;
- Consult with former and current staff;
- Consult with other local, state and federal agency partners;
- Consult with regional academics, as needed; and
- Solicit written public input, as well as oral input during multiple public workshops to be held throughout the region.

By the end of 2014, staff plans to present to the Regional Water Board for their consideration, a prioritized list of basin planning projects that reflects the findings and conclusions of these efforts. Upon the Regional Water Board's adoption, the 2014 short list of Triennial Review priorities will guide the work efforts of the Planning and TMDL units for the period of 2015 through 2017.

**SIGNIFICANT
CHANGES:**

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION: Not applicable

**SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS:**

- 1) Resolution No. R1-2011-0091
Adoption of the 2011 Triennial List of Potential Basin Plan Amendments