

Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report  
Wednesday, November 19, 2014  
Regional Water Board Office  
Santa Rosa, California

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: Workshop to Consider Draft Triennial Review Priority Project List  
(Alydda Mangelsdorf)

BOARD ACTION: This is a public workshop. There will be no Board action.

BACKGROUND: Water quality control plans (Basin Plans) provide the basis for protecting water quality in California. Basin Plans are mandated by both the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and the State Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act (Porter-Cologne). Sections 13240-13247 of Porter-Cologne specify that the regional basin plans shall include the following:

- 1) Water quality objectives which, in the judgment of the Regional Water Board, will ensure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses and the prevention of nuisance.
- 2) The program of implementation for achieving water quality objectives (objectives), including a description of the nature of actions that are necessary to achieve the objectives, time schedules for the actions to be taken, and a description of surveillance (i.e., monitoring) to be undertaken to determine compliance with objectives.

The Regional Water Board adopted its first interim basin plans in 1971. These were followed in 1975 by a comprehensive Water Quality Control Plan for the Klamath River Basin (1A) and a comprehensive Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coastal Basin (1B). In 1988, the Regional Water Board combined and updated the two comprehensive plans and their abstracts into a single Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region. The Regional Water Board has amended the Basin Plan numerous times since 1975.

DISCUSSION: Section 13250 of Porter-Cologne and Section 303 (c)(1) of the federal Clean Water Act require a review of basin plans at least once each three-year period to keep pace with changes in regulations, new technologies, policies, and physical attributes within the region. The Regional Water Board is responsible for this review, and is required to: 1) identify those

portions of the Basin Plan that are in need of modification or new additions; 2) adopt standards as appropriate; and 3) recognize those portions of the Basin Plan that are appropriate as written. The review process includes public scoping meetings, a public workshop and a comment period to identify issues of water quality concern that may be amended by revisions of the Basin Plan. After public input is received, the Regional Water Board's role in the Triennial Review process is to determine if Basin Plan revisions are needed, and to set forth a priority list and schedule for consideration of the needed Basin Plan revisions.

At the conclusion of the Triennial Review, the Regional Water Board will adopt a resolution that:

- 1) Summarizes those sections of the Basin Plan the Regional Water Board has determined to be appropriate and accurate; and
- 2) Sets forth a prioritized list of potential amendments to the Basin Plan.

As part of the 2014 Triennial Review, the Regional Water Board also will be asked to adopt editorial Basin Plan amendments, under a separate resolution.

#### SUMMARY OF NEWLY PROPOSED PROJECTS

Some of the Basin Plan amendment projects recommended through the 2014 public scoping process to be added to the existing 2011 Triennial Review list include, but are not limited to:

- Development of exemption criteria from the seasonal point source waste discharge prohibition to consider the benefits of flow augmentation via the discharge of highly treated wastewater;
- Development of flow criteria;
- Development of a policy to address impacts due to climate change;
- Development of a policy to support groundwater recharge; and,
- Refinement of the narrative objective for biostimulatory substances to address biostimulatory conditions.

#### 2014 TRIENNIAL REVIEW SCHEDULE

The *Draft Staff Report for the 2014 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Draft Staff Report)* describes the status of 2011 priority projects and presents new issues that should be addressed in the 2014 Triennial Review. It also includes staff's priority ranking of the proposed projects. This *Draft Staff Report* will be posted on the Regional Water Board's website and made available via the Regional Water Board's Basin Planning email subscription (Lyris) list on November 17, 2014.

During this workshop, the Regional Water Board is invited to provide feedback to staff on the staff recommendations for changes to the Basin

Plan and the priority ranking. Also at the workshop, the Regional Water Board will receive public comments on the *Draft Staff Report*. Written comments on the *Draft Staff Report* may be submitted through December 29, 2014.

At the end of January 2015, after considering all the comments, staff will release a response to comments document and a proposed resolution with a priority list of potential Basin Plan amendments.

At the March 12, 2015 Regional Water Board meeting, staff plans to bring the proposed resolution with the Priority List to the Board for consideration and adoption. Staff also will ask the Board to consider and adopt several editorial amendments to the Basin Plan at the same meeting.

The Board resolution, once adopted, will direct and prioritize the planning efforts of the Regional Water Board staff for the next three-year period (2015-2018). As staffing and budget allow, the staff will bring each of the potential Basin Plan revisions identified on the Priority List to the Board for consideration and adoption. A public hearing process, separate from the Triennial Review, will apply to each issue identified on the Priority List. This allows the Regional Water Board to consider each potential basin plan amendment on its own merits.

**SUPPORTING  
DOCUMENTS:**

*Draft Staff Report for the 2014 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (sent under separate cover).*