



# Media Release

## State Water Board Approves Limits on Bacteria for San Francisco Bay Beaches

**For Immediate Release:  
Aug. 16, 2016**

**Contact: Tim Moran  
(916) 327-8239**

The State Water Resources Control Board today approved limits on bacterial contamination at San Francisco Bay beaches to protect recreational uses.

The limits, called a total maximum daily load, or TMDL, were adopted by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board in April as an amendment to the Regional Water Board's water quality basin plan. The State Water Board approved the amendment today.

The TMDL protects recreational use at San Francisco Bay beaches, including beaches at Crissy Field, Aquatic Park, and Candlestick Point in San Francisco, and two beaches in the City of San Mateo. Bacteria counts at the beaches frequently exceed levels considered safe for recreational use.

The first phase of the TMDL will start with immediate actions to control human-caused bacteria sources closest to the beaches, while investigating other sources of bacteria. If after five years bacteria reduction targets aren't met, a second phase would require additional investigation into bacteria sources and actions to reduce them.

The implementation plans rely significantly on regulatory programs that are already in place and actions that are already required, such as eliminating sanitary sewer overflows and taking actions to control urban runoff. The implementation plans also include requirements for progressive improvements in sanitary sewer inspection and repair and municipal stormwater best management practices, as well as monitoring to determine where to focus implementation actions and better identify bacteria sources.

The amendment to the Regional Water Board's basin plan must be approved by the state Office of Administrative Law and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency before it takes effect.

For more information on the TMDL for San Francisco Bay beaches, visit [here](#).

###



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100 • [www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov)

