



San Francisco Bay Basin Plan Triennial Review Public Workshop August 4, 2015

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Overview

- What is a Basin Plan Triennial Review?
- Water Board staff review of issue areas
 - Priority projects from last triennial review
 - Review of beneficial uses
 - Review of water quality objectives
 - Updates to the Implementation Plan
 - Updates to Plans and Policies
- Discussion and next steps

What is a Basin Plan?

Master Planning Document for Water Board

➤ Regulatory

- Beneficial uses, water quality objectives
- And implementation plan [effluent limits, discharge prohibitions, permit programs, TMDLs]

➤ Information

- Maps, tables, plans and policies, program descriptions, and related regulations

What is a Triennial Review?

- Clean Water Act Section 303(c)(1): *a state's water quality standards shall be reviewed every three years*
- Planning Workplan (non-TMDL)
- Elements of the review process:
 - Attainability of existing standards and associated implementation programs
 - Indicators of environmental degradation and need for additional protection
 - Regulatory implementation program updates

What is a Triennial Review? (cont.)

- Formal process for interested parties to provide input to the Water Board workplan for Basin Planning
- Interested parties include:
 - The public: organizations and individuals
 - Regulated community
 - Permittees with Waste Discharge Requirements
 - NPDES permits, 401 Water Quality Certifications
- Review required by California and federal law
 - Section 13240 of CWC requires periodic review of standards
 - CWA requires each state to conduct a “continuing planning process” approved by U.S. EPA [CWA 303(e)]

Review of 2012 Workplan

Project	Status
Stream and Wetlands System Protection Policy	Work ongoing
Develop Nutrient Water Quality Objective	Work ongoing
Develop and Implement Biological Objectives	Work ongoing
Develop Site-Specific Dissolved Oxygen Objectives for SF Bay	Work ongoing

Review of 2012 Workplan

Project	Status
Amend Wet Weather Overflow Implementation	Completed
Update Basin Plan's Toxicity Testing Requirements	State Policy delayed
Contaminants of Emerging Concern	Strategy developed
On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Policy	Completed (not in top tier)
Salt and Nutrient Management Plans	One plan completed, progress on others (not in top tier)

2015 Triennial Review Topics

- Update beneficial Uses
- Update water quality objectives
- Update implementation plan
- Update plans and policies
- Minor editorial revisions

Update Beneficial Uses

- Add unnamed water bodies receiving discharges
 - Some waters in NPDES permits, but not in Basin Plan
- Review for the presence of the COMM use
 - COMM is impaired when fish not safe to eat
- Align Ocean Plan and Basin Plan relative to REC1
 - Basin Plan lacks detail about REC1 applicability to ocean
- Complete stream & wetland protection policy
 - Two new beneficial uses and implementation plan

Update Water Quality Objectives

Statewide and Federal Objectives

- Update toxicity testing requirements
- Revise pentachlorophenol WQ objectives
- Develop numeric nutrient endpoints
 - Numeric guidance and assessment tools in freshwater
 - Assessment framework & numeric endpoints for estuaries
- Incorporate 2012 U.S. EPA REC bacteria criteria
- Review un-ionized ammonia objective for SF Bay

Update Water Quality Objectives

Regional Issues

- Refine/Develop site-specific oxygen objectives for SF Bay
 - Initial efforts in Suisun Marsh, extend elsewhere
- Develop nutrient water quality objectives for SF Bay
 - Nutrient management strategy well underway
- Develop and implement biological objectives
 - Work on region-specific biological metrics
- Lake Merced dissolved oxygen and pH objectives
 - Site-specific objectives for urban SF lake

Update Implementation Plans

- Screening levels for groundwater cleanup
 - Would focus attention on significant contaminant concerns
- Low-threat site closure requirements
 - Builds on State policy (petroleum sites) to include solvent sites
- Use wastewater to create, restore and enhance wetlands
 - Existing policies and permitting issues currently impede use
- Update conditions for prohibition exemptions
 - Treatment reliability is expected, not special

Update Implementation Plans

- Regulatory strategy for emerging contaminants
 - Incorporate risk-based strategy into Basin Plan
- Update cyanide dilution credits
 - Develop dilution credit for currently missing waterbodies
- Salt and nutrient management plans
 - Regional implementation of 2009 Water Recycling Policy

Update Plans and Policies

TMDL Projects we are working on

Butano and Pescadero Creeks Sediment

San Francisco Bay Beaches pathogens

San Mateo Coast, Fitzgerald Marine Reserve/San Vicente Creek Pathogens

Pacific Dry Dock II (sediment hot spot)

Petaluma River nutrients and pathogens

Permanente Creek selenium

San Gregorio Creek sediment

Stevens Creek toxicity

Statewide Policy on mercury in reservoirs

Suisun Marsh dissolved oxygen, mercury and nutrients

Update Plans and Policies

- Priority Ranking for TMDL development
 - TMDLs we plan to develop over next few years
- Climate change and water resources policy
 - Add narrative description of climate change impacts
 - Describe efforts Board can/should do to respond
- Policy for managing mercury in restored wetlands
 - Goal: create clear direction for wetland management

Minor Editorial Revisions

- Clarify turbidity water quality objective
 - Make language easier to interpret & consistent with turbidity objectives in other Basin Plans.
- Other editorial changes
 - Updating discussion related to discharges to Areas of Special Biological Significance
 - Updating discussion on oil spills
 - Correcting discharge location coordinates

Next Steps

- Written feedback due **Tuesday August 18**
 - **Email to Rlooker@waterboards.ca.gov**
- Meeting summary posted to website
- We develop ranked priority project list
- Board hearing on workplan in late 2015

Your turn to give feedback

- Please raise hand to speak
 - **Moderator will recognize you**
- Please state name and affiliation for notes