

ITEM: 11

SUBJECT: Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin

REPORT: The Triennial Review process set forth in the Federal Clean Water Act and California Water Code requires that regional water boards conduct periodic public hearings to help them identify and prioritize problems concerning the effectiveness of a water quality control plan. It also requires that the regional water boards develop a work plan to investigate the problems and make appropriate amendments to the water quality control plan. This item concerns the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region's (Central Valley Water Board) obligatory review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin (Basin Plan) and approval of the work plan proposed by staff.

The purpose of the April hearing is to receive further comments from the public on water quality issues and on the Board's proposed work plan to address them, and to provide the Board with an opportunity to deliberate on and adopt the work plan by resolution. The Central Valley Water Board held workshops on 24 October 2012 in Fresno and 6 December 2012 in Rancho Cordova to receive comments on issues to be included in the Triennial Review work plan. Written comments submitted for the workshop were provided to the Board in the workshop agenda package for the December 2012 Board meeting. The written comments submitted for the workshop can also be viewed at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/triennialreviews.shtml.

Staff reviewed and responded to comments and developed a work plan to investigate the identified issues by priority. Resources for this planning effort are limited, so the work plan identifies what can be expected with existing resources and what additional resources would be required to address remaining issues. The response to comments and the draft work plan were made available for additional comments with the release of the Notice of Public Hearing on 2 September 2014. Written comments submitted since the Notice of Public Hearing was released are included in this agenda package. Staff responded to the additional comments and made changes to the draft work plan as appropriate. The draft work plan included in this agenda package indicates the changes to the draft made in response to the comments.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Central Valley Water Board will consider adoption of a resolution to:

- Adopt the proposed work plan which identifies and ranks what water quality issues need to be addressed and in what priority resources will be allocated to address these issues and develop basin plan amendments,
- Reaffirm that the Basin Plan is adequate in all areas where an issue for investigation has not been identified,
- Declare that the Basin Plan in its entirety shall remain in effect except when a specific portion of it is subsequently amended through implementation of the work plan.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed Resolution.

Mgmt. Review ___JEC___
Legal Review ___PEP___

16/17 April 2015
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting
1685 E. Street
Fresno, CA 93706