

Environmental Checklist and Analysis

Substitute Environmental Document for Proposed Amendments Related to Recreational Use Standards for Inland Fresh Waters within the Santa Ana Region

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Section 1

Introduction

As a Lead Agency, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (Santa Ana Water Board or Regional Board) is required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) when considering amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Santa Ana River Basin. Accordingly, this Environmental Checklist and Analysis has been prepared as a part of the Substitute Environmental Document (SED) required for consideration of proposed amendments. Specifically, this analysis has been prepared to address the potential environmental effects of a project involving amendments to the Basin Plan related to water quality objectives for bacteria and beneficial use classifications for inland freshwaters (Proposed Project). A more detailed description of the Proposed Project is provided in Section 2, and a summary of the overall environmental setting is provided in Section 3.

This analysis includes an Environmental Checklist that serves as the basis for a systematic evaluation of the potential for the amendments to result in a significant impact relative to a variety of environmental factors such as biological resources, recreation, water quality and other such topics as presented in Section 4. Section 5 includes a discussion of alternatives to the Proposed Project. The information sources (references) used in completing the analysis are listed in Section 6.

1.1 Regulatory Setting

Pursuant to Section 15251(g) of the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15000 et seq.), the Water Quality Control (Basin)/Section 208 Planning Program of the State and Regional Water Boards has been certified by the Secretary for Resources as exempt from the requirement to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Negative Declaration (ND) or Initial Study. However, an environmental analysis is to be presented in a substitute document which includes at a minimum, a description of the proposed activities and either: 1) alternatives to the activities and mitigation measures to avoid or reduce any significant or potentially significant effects that the proposed project may have on the environment; or, 2) a statement that the proposed project would not have any significant or potentially significant effects on the environment, supported by a checklist or other documentation.¹

Additionally, the Regional Board must comply with the State Water Resource Control Board's regulations on exempt regulatory programs when amending basin plans (California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Sec. 3775-3781). These regulations require the completion of a Substitute Environmental Document (SED), consisting of a written report containing an environmental analysis of the project and a completed Environmental Checklist. The issues identified in the Environmental Checklist must

¹ CEQA Guidelines, Section 15252.

be evaluated in the checklist or elsewhere in the SED. Other documentation may also be included.

The SED must include: 1) a brief description of the proposed project; 2) identification of any significant or potentially significant adverse environmental impacts of the proposed project; 3) an analysis of reasonable alternatives to the proposed project and mitigation measures to avoid or reduce any significant or potentially significant adverse environmental impacts; and, 4) an environmental analysis of the reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance. This environmental analysis must include, at a minimum, all of the following: (a) an identification of the reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance with the project; (b) an analysis of any reasonably foreseeable significant adverse environmental impacts associated with those methods of compliance; (c) an analysis of reasonably foreseeable alternative methods of compliance that would have less significant adverse environmental impacts; and, (d) an analysis of reasonably foreseeable mitigation measures that would minimize any unavoidable significant adverse environmental impacts of the reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance. In preparing the environmental analysis of reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance, the Regional Board may utilize numerical ranges or averages where specific data are not available; however, the Board is not required to engage in speculation or conjecture. The environmental analysis must take into account a reasonable range of environmental, economic and technical factors, population and geographic areas and specific sites, but the Board is not required to conduct a site-specific project level analysis of the methods of compliance, which CEQA may otherwise require of those agencies who are responsible for complying with the revised Basin Plan when they determine the manner in which they will comply. For each of the significant or potentially significant adverse environmental impacts of the project or reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance with the project that are identified (if any), the SED must contain findings as described in the CEQA Guidelines section 15091, and, if applicable, a statement of overriding considerations as described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15093.

The environmental analysis for the Basin Plan amendments must also comply with Section 15187 of the CEQA Guidelines. Section 15187 establishes requirements for rules and regulations requiring the installation of pollution control equipment, establishment of performance standards², and establishment of a treatment requirement by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB or State Board) and regional water quality control boards (among other agencies).³ The requirements established in Section 15187 are mirrored in the State Water Resources Control

² The term "performance standard" is not defined in CEQA but in the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act (Government Code Sec. 11340-11359). A "performance standard" is a regulation that describes an objective with the criteria stated for achieving the objective (Government Code Sec. 11342(d))

³ The proposed Basin Plan amendments involve revisions to the existing water quality objectives in the Basin Plan, which could be considered "performance standards"; therefore this environmental analysis must comply with CEQA Section 15187.

Board's regulations. Specifically, pursuant to Section 15187, the environmental analysis for such a rule or regulation must include at least the following:

1. An analysis of reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts of the methods of compliance;
2. An analysis of reasonably foreseeable feasible mitigation measures relating to those impacts; and
3. An analysis of reasonably foreseeable alternative means of compliance with the rule or regulation, which would avoid or eliminate the identified impacts.

Once again, the analysis must consider a reasonable range of environmental, economic, and technical factors, population and geographic areas, and specific sites. Where specific data are not available, the Santa Ana Water Board may utilize numerical ranges and averages but is neither required nor encouraged to engage in speculation or conjecture. A project-specific level analysis is not required, nor is it feasible.

Pursuant to Water Code Section 13360, the Santa Ana Water Board is prohibited from specifying the design, location, type of construction, or particular manner of compliance with waste discharge requirements or other orders. Instead, those entities subject to the proposed Basin Plan amendments are responsible for identifying compliance strategies, and conducting the required CEQA analysis of implementation of the selected strategies at the project-level. Thus, the Santa Ana Water Board cannot conduct project-level CEQA analyses of strategies that would be implemented by others, nor is it required to do so. This document analyzes the potential environmental effects of implementing reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance on a Programmatic Level. Consistent with the CEQA Guidelines and Water Code Sections identified above, the environmental analysis contained herein includes a written analysis that identifies a reasonable range of reasonably foreseeable compliance strategies (Section 2.3), presents an Environmental Checklist (Section 4), evaluates reasonably foreseeable environmental effects (Section 4) and mitigation measures if applicable, and discusses alternatives to the Proposed Project (Section 5). This analysis takes into consideration a reasonable range of environmental and economic factors, population and geographic areas and specific sites.

Section 2

Project Description

2.1 Background

The State Board sets statewide policy, and, together with the nine Regional Boards, implements state and federal water laws and regulations. Each of the Regional Boards, including the Santa Ana Regional Board, is required to adopt a Water Quality Control Plan or Basin Plan subject to approval by the SWRCB that identifies the beneficial uses of the surface and ground waters in each particular region, establishes water quality objectives intended to protect those uses, and identifies a program of implementation to achieve and protect those objectives.

The current Basin Plan for the Santa Ana Region was adopted in 1995 and last updated in 2008⁴. It establishes water quality standards⁵ for the surface and ground waters of the Santa Ana Region and provides the basis for the Regional Board's regulatory programs. The Basin Plan designates the beneficial uses of specific waterbodies within the Santa Ana Region and establishes water quality objectives for the protection of these uses. It includes an implementation plan describing actions by the Regional Board and by those required to comply with the Basin Plan (e.g. Counties, Cities, Special Districts, industries, etc.) for maintaining and enhancing water quality.

2.1.1 Water Quality Objectives

Water quality objectives are defined in the Water Code as "...the limits or levels of water quality constituents or characteristics which are established for the reasonable protection of beneficial uses of water or the prevention of nuisance within a specific area" (Section 13050 (h)). Further, Water Code Section 13241 directs that:

Each regional board shall establish such water quality objectives in water quality control plans as in its judgment will ensure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses and the prevention of nuisance; however, it is recognized that it may be possible for the quality of water to be changed to some degree without unreasonably affecting beneficial uses. Factors to be considered by a regional board in establishing water quality objectives shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, all of the following:

(a) Past, present, and probable future beneficial uses of water.

⁴ The 2008 update to the Basin Plan did not include any substantive changes to the Plan. The purpose of the update was to incorporate in the text the separate amendments that had been approved subsequent to the re-publication of the Basin Plan in 1995.

⁵ Water quality "standards" include water quality objectives, beneficial uses and the state's antidegradation policy (State Board Resolution No. 68-16, "Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California").

- (b) *Environmental characteristics of the hydrographic unit under consideration, including the quality of water available thereto.*
- (c) *Water quality conditions that could reasonably be achieved through the coordinated control of all factors which affect water quality in the area.*
- (d) *Economic considerations.*
- (e) *The need for developing housing within the region.*
- (f) *The need to develop and use recycled water.*

Objectives are presented in the Basin Plan as narratives and/or as numeric objectives and are specified according to waterbody type (e.g., ocean waters; enclosed bays and estuaries; inland surface waters; and groundwaters) and by constituent/contaminant (e.g., ammonia, bacteria, metals, color, oil and grease, nitrate, etc.). The narrative objectives vary in applicability and scope to reflect the various types of beneficial uses identified for a water body. The numerical objectives generally reflect the levels needed to project the identified beneficial uses, or they may prohibit the discharge of specific substances. The Basin Plan states that “an adverse effect or impact on a beneficial use occurs where there is an actual or threatened loss or impairment of that beneficial use.”

2.1.2 Beneficial Uses

A beneficial use is described in the Basin Plan as one of the various ways that water can be used for the benefit of people and/or wildlife, such as drinking, swimming, industrial and agricultural supplies, and support of aquatic habitats.

Twenty-three beneficial uses are now defined statewide; nineteen of these are applied to the Santa Ana Region.⁶ The Basin Plan also lists one beneficial use specific to the region (Limited Warm Freshwater Habitat), bringing the total number of beneficial uses recognized in the Santa Ana Region to twenty. Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan identifies and defines the twenty beneficial uses and provides a table showing designated beneficial uses for waterbodies within the Santa Ana Region. Waterbodies typically have more than one identified beneficial use.

The Basin Plan designates all surface waters and their tributaries within the watershed as having both water contact recreation (REC1) and non-contact water recreation (REC2) beneficial uses. All surface waters, including open stormwater channels that have been modified, primarily for flood protection purposes, are presumed to be REC1. Many of these improved open channels are not specifically named in the Basin Plan but are considered tributaries to the named water bodies and the beneficial use of the downstream named water body applies. The Basin Plan

⁶ The four state defined uses not found in the Basin Plan are Migration of Aquatic Organisms, Freshwater Replenishment, Inland Saline Water Habitat and Aquaculture.

currently defines REC1 as waters used for recreational activities involving body contact with water where ingestion of water is reasonably possible. These uses may include, but are not limited to, swimming, wading, water-skiing, skin and scuba diving, surfing, whitewater activities, fishing, and use of natural hot springs. The Basin Plan defines REC2 as waters used for recreational activities involving proximity to water, but not normally involving body contact with water where ingestion of water would be reasonably possible. These uses may include, but are not limited to, picnicking, sunbathing, hiking, beachcombing, camping, boating, tidepool and marine life study, hunting, sightseeing, and aesthetic enjoyment in conjunction with the above activities.

2.2 Proposed Amendments

Since 2003, Regional Board staff have been actively participating in a stakeholder process coordinated through the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority and designated as the Stormwater Quality Standards Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force has been involved in a work effort to assist the Regional Board in reevaluating water quality standards related to recreational use of the Region's inland fresh waters. The Task Force includes representatives from agencies and organizations involved and interested in water quality issues in the watershed, including Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, in particular the Municipal Stormwater (MS4) Programs for each county and the included cities, environmental groups, the Santa Ana Water Quality Control Board, wastewater dischargers, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region 9, and others. Throughout the process, the Task Force has been seeking to develop a pathogen control strategy that would not only meet statutory and regulatory water quality standards requirements but that would also encourage finite public resources to be invested in prioritized fashion. One goal is to provide the highest level of water quality protection where people are actually coming into contact with the water. Such an approach would allow planning agencies to implement more cost-effective regional BMP solutions while continuing to protect downstream uses.

The work efforts of the Task Force have led to proposed modifications to the existing bacteria quality objectives for recreational uses based on the best available science and recommendations for changes in recreational use designations and implementation strategies. Together, the proposed modifications and recommendations are incorporated into a number of proposed amendments to the Basin Plan related to Recreational Standards for Inland Fresh Waters for the Santa Ana Region (Proposed Project) described below.

The Proposed Project consists of amendments to the Basin Plan that fall largely into two principal categories: A) revisions to bacteria water objectives; and B) revisions to beneficial uses. The specific amendments are presented below under each of the two general categories. The proposed amendments also include recommendations for temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain high flow conditions, and the addition of specific surface waters in the Region

that are not identified in the current Basin Plan. Beneficial use designations are proposed to be added for these waters. Two reservoirs (Laguna and Lambert) are proposed to be deleted from the list of inland surface waters included in the Basin Plan since these reservoirs no longer exist.

Implementation plan language will be proposed that includes: a surveillance plan to assess compliance with the revised bacteria quality objectives; identifies the criteria for suspension of recreation standards for specific streams under certain flow conditions; describes the intended application of single sample maximum values in REC1 freshwaters; describes implementation of antidegradation targets for REC2 only freshwaters; discusses controllable and uncontrollable source of bacteria inputs to surface waters; and describes the basis for POTW coliform bacteria requirements and their relationship to recreational standards.

Finally, minor editorial changes are proposed to update the narrative text regarding recreation standards, modify footnote numbering, and the like. These minor editorial changes, which are identified in the staff report accompanying the proposed amendments, have no substantive regulatory effect and, therefore, no potential effect on the environment. No further discussion or analysis of these editorial changes is necessary, and none is included in this document.

2.2.1 Revisions to Bacteria Water Quality Objectives

The proposed amendments include revisions to the Basin Plan's existing bacteria water quality objective for inland surface waters. Each proposed revision is discussed below.

2.2.1.1 Proposed Amendment A.1 - Deletion of the Fecal Coliform Objectives for REC1 and REC2

Direct measurement of all pathogens (bacteria, viruses, parasites, or other organisms that may cause illness to persons exposed) is not feasible at the present time and therefore indicators are used to establish objectives to assure that water quality is adequate to protect human health against excessive risk of illness. Fecal coliform are the existing indicator organism used to set water quality objectives to protect REC1 and REC2 uses. The Basin Plan describes fecal bacteria as part of the intestinal flora of warm-blooded animals and states that their presence in water is an indicator of pollution. Fecal coliform bacteria are measured in terms of the number of organisms per unit volume. Water quality objectives for the numbers of fecal coliform vary depending on the designated use of the water. For inland surface waters designated REC1 the water quality objectives are as follows:

REC1 Fecal coliform: log mean less than 200 organisms/100 mL based on five or more samples/30 day period, and not more than 10% of the samples exceed 400 organisms/100 mL for any 30-day period

For lakes and streams designated REC2 the water quality objectives are as follows:

REC2 Fecal coliform: average less than 2,000 organisms/100 mL and not more than 10% of samples exceed 4,000 organisms/100 mL for any 30-day period

All of the surface water bodies within the Basin are currently designated both REC1 and REC2, and therefore the more stringent REC1 water quality objectives govern.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has directed the States, including California, to update fecal coliform objectives based on USEPA's 1986 Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Bacteria. These recommended national criteria are based on *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) or enterococcus in freshwater and enterococcus in marine waters. USEPA found that these bacteria indicators are better for assessing potential health effects resulting from water contact recreation. *E. coli* is also a type of bacteria commonly found in the lower intestine of warm-blooded organisms. Accordingly, Proposed Amendment A.1 would remove the current fecal coliform objectives for REC1 and REC2 designated freshwaters from the Basin Plan. The fecal coliform objectives would be replaced with objectives based on *E. coli* (Proposed Amendment A.2) and a bacteria indicator target for REC2 only surface waters would be established (Proposed Amendment A.3). The most recently adopted Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) developed to address bacteria indicator impairments in Reach 3 of the Santa Ana River and its tributaries and approved by USEPA already includes a numeric target for *E. coli*. This target was included with the expectation that *E. coli* objectives based on USEPA's national criteria would be established in the near future.

2.2.1.2 Proposed Amendment A.2 - Establishment of an *E. coli* Objective for REC1 Waters

Under Proposed Amendments A.2, the existing fecal coliform objective would be replaced with an *E. coli* pathogen indicator bacteria objective based on the USEPA's 1986 Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Bacteria. These criteria apply to waters that are or may be used for primary contact recreation, which is essentially comparable to the REC1 designation.

The REC1 *E. coli* objective would be established as follows:

- For waters designated REC1 only or REC1 and REC2, the objective would be less than 126 *E. coli* organisms per 100 mL, (expressed as the geometric mean of at least 5 samples over a 30-day period).

Proposed Amendment A.2 includes the addition of a new table to the Basin Plan titled "Pathogen Indicator Bacteria Objectives for Fresh Waters" which presents the objectives described above. USEPA's 1986 national criteria document finds that *E. coli* geomean objectives of 126-206 organisms per 100 mL, which correlate to approximate excess health risk rates of 8/1000 swimmers and 10/1000 swimmers, respectively, provide health protection that is roughly comparable to that provided by the fecal coliform geomean objective (200/100 mL).

Proposed Amendment A.2 would also add a new table to the Basin Plan titled, "Alternative Method for Assessing Probable Compliance with the *E. coli* Objective in Freshwaters Designated REC1 When Insufficient Data are Available to Calculate a Geometric Mean." The table presents USEPA's recommended formula for calculating the maximum expected single sample maximum (SSM) value for *E. coli* (1986 Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Bacteria). Single sample maximum values are statistical constructs designed to assess probable compliance with the geomean⁷ objective for REC1 waters. USEPA expects states to use the SSMs to make short-term decisions about beach notification and closure, and as a trigger for further monitoring and investigation. The States have flexibility to determine how to use the SSM in Clean Water Programs, such as impairment assessments and TMDLs.

2.2.1.3 Proposed Amendment A.3 - Establishment of a Bacteria Indicator Target for REC2 only Waters

Antidegradation bacteria indicator targets for water bodies designated only REC2 as the result of a Use Attainability Analysis are proposed. The bacteria indicator targets for REC2 only surface waters would be established as follows:

- For waters that are designated only REC2 pursuant to an approved Use Attainability Analysis, identify bacteria quality targets, in conformance with the state antidegradation policy. Subject to the availability of data, the targets are based on fecal coliform bacteria and/or *E. coli*. The targets are intended to provide the basis for assuring that bacteria quality conditions do not degrade.

Proposed Amendment A.3 would add a new table to Section 5 of the Basin Plan summarizing the recommended targets, within the discussion of anti-degradation.

2.2.1.4 Proposed Amendment A.4 - Add Narrative Pathogen Objective

The current basin plan does not have a narrative objective for pathogens. Both the existing and proposed numeric objectives to protect REC1 uses of the Region's waters are based on bacterial indicators (fecal coliform, *E. coli* respectively) that indicate the likelihood of the presence of disease-causing organisms (pathogens). USEPA recognizes the limitations of the 1986 bacteria criteria and is currently engaged in studies that may lead to revision of these criteria. Given progress with analytical techniques, it may be possible to detect the actual pathogenic organisms (e.g., viruses) directly in a timely and practicable manner, such that it no longer is necessary to rely on these bacterial indicators. In anticipation that this may occur, a narrative pathogen objective is proposed to be added to the Basin Plan to provide the Regional Board an additional tool to assure that water quality and beneficial uses will be protected.

Amendment A.4 would establish the following narrative pathogen objective:

⁷ Geomean, or geometric mean, is a type of mean or average that indicates a central tendency or typical value of a set of numbers.

Waste discharges shall not cause or contribute to excessive risk of illness from microorganisms pathogenic to human beings. Pathogen indicator concentrations shall not exceed the values specified in Table 4-pio below as a result of controllable water quality factors (see also Chapter 5, Recreation Water Quality Standards, Controllable and Uncontrollable Sources of Bacteria) unless it is demonstrated to the Regional Board's satisfaction that the elevated indicator concentrations do not result in excessive risk of illness among people recreating in or near the water. In all cases, the level of water quality necessary to protect existing uses must be maintained. Where existing water quality is better than necessary to protect the designated use, the existing high level of water quality must be maintained unless it is demonstrated that existing or potential beneficial uses would be protected and that water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of California would be maintained, as specified in the state antidegradation policy (SWRCB Resolution No. 68-16). The Regional Board may also require recycled water discharged to freshwaters designated REC 1 or REC 2 to comply with other limitations recommended by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

2.2.1.5 Proposed Amendment A.5 - Delete the MUN Bacteria Objective

The Basin Plan currently contains a bacteria objective (total coliform less than 100 organisms per 100 mL) for waters designated as municipal and domestic supply (MUN). This objective would be deleted under Proposed Amendment A.5. Per the Basin Plan, MUN waters are used for community, military, municipal or individual water supply systems. The uses may include, but are not limited to, drinking water supply. The current MUN objective was developed to protect drinking water sources from bacterial contamination. However, since this objective was established states were required to adopt and implement the USEPA Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule by January 1, 2002. The Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule was implemented to strengthen protection of drinking water sources against microbial contaminants and requires adequate disinfection and regular monitoring of MUN waters. Thus, the MUN bacteria objective is now obsolete and can be deleted. The deletion of the objective will not result in any adverse impacts on beneficial uses and will not result in the lowering of water quality.

2.2.2 Revisions Related to Beneficial Uses

The proposed amendments include revisions related to the Basin Plan's Beneficial Uses. Each proposed revision is discussed below.

2.2.2.1 Proposed Amendment B.1 - Temporary Suspension of Recreational Standards During High Flow Conditions

Proposed Amendment B.1 would result in temporary suspension of the recreational use designations and applicable bacteria objectives in certain stream segments when unsafe flow conditions preclude attainment of the designated recreational uses for short periods of time.

The temporary suspension would apply only to freshwater creeks and streams that have been engineered or modified to serve as flood control channels. These channels have been constructed or modified with concrete, rip-rap or similar materials along the sides and/or bottom of the waterway. Such construction/modifications are designed to contain the flow and convey it efficiently downstream, and to prevent erosion. The specific waters to which the suspension applies are listed in proposed Basin Plan Appendices VIII and IX.

The Regional Board may determine that it is appropriate to apply the temporary suspension to additional waters that may not be engineered. Such waters may be added provided that it is demonstrated that recreational uses are not “existing” uses (as defined by federal regulations) under the suspension conditions and that either the suspension criteria identified below apply or other stream or flow conditions result in hazardous conditions that preclude attainment of the use. The Regional Board may also determine that recreation standards should not be suspended in some specific streams if it is demonstrated that stream channel conditions or flow controls effectively eliminate any safety hazard to the public.

The criteria for high flow suspension of recreation standards are described in a new subsection (Recreation Water Quality Standards, *High Flow Suspension*) that is also proposed to be added to Chapter 5 of the Basin Plan. Flow conditions are presumptively unsafe if one or more of the following conditions occurs: (1) stream velocity is greater than 8 feet-per-second (fps); or, (2) the product of stream depth (feet) and stream velocity (fps) (the depth-velocity product) is greater than 10 ft²/s. Where representative stream gauge data are not available, flow velocity is presumed to be greater than 8 fps when rainfall in the area tributary to the stream is greater than or equal to 0.5 inches in 24 hours. Rainfall measurements may be estimated using gauges, Doppler radar data, or other scientifically defensible methods. Stream flows will be presumed to return to safe conditions and the temporary suspension of recreation standards will cease 24 hours after rain ceases to fall in the area tributary to the stream, unless actual flow data demonstrate that the suspension conditions identified above either continue beyond or terminate prior to the 24 hour period. In all cases, the temporary suspension will terminate automatically once stream flows have returned to normal baseline conditions, generally defined as flows at or below the 98th percentile as calculated from a calibrated hydrograph for the stream.

2.2.2.2 Proposed Amendment B.2 - Assignment of REC1 Designated Waters to Tiers A, B, C, and D

Proposed Amendment B.2 would establish four tiers of REC1 designated inland freshwaters for the purposes of determining appropriate single sample maximum values for REC1 waters. The four tiers, Tiers A, B, C, and D are proposed to be defined as follows:

Tier A: includes freshwater lakes and streams that are or may be heavily-used by the public for primary contact recreational activities, relative to other freshwater bodies in the Santa Ana Region. Typical examples of Tier A waters include, but are not limited

to: Big Bear Lake, Canyon Lake, Lake Elsinore, Lake Perris, Reach 3 of the Santa Ana River, Reach 2 of Mill Creek in Redlands and Lytle Creek (Middle and North Forks). Single sample maximum (SSM) values for Tier A waters are calculated using a 75% statistical confidence factor. (See Table 5-REC1-ssv, below).

Tier B: includes freshwater lakes and streams that are or may be moderately-used by the public for primary contact recreational activities. Moderate use occurs where the number of people accessing the waterbody is approximately half that which generally occurs in Tier A waters. Typical examples of Tier B waters include, but are not limited to: Jenks Lake, Santiago Reservoir, Cucamonga Creek Reach 2, and Reaches 4 and 6 of the Santa Ana River. Single sample maximum values for Tier B waters are calculated using an 82% confidence factor. (See Table 5-REC1-ssv, below)

Tier C: includes freshwater lakes and streams that are or may be lightly-used by the public for primary contact recreational activities. Light use occurs where the number of people accessing the waterbody is less than half that which generally occurs in Tier A waters. Typical examples of Tier C waters include, but are not limited to: Reach 2 of the Santa Ana River, Bear Creek, Chino Creek Reach 1B, Anza Park Drain, and Sunnyslope Channel. Single sample maximum values for Tier C waters are calculated using a 90% statistical confidence factor. (See Table 5-REC1-ssv, below)

Tier D: includes freshwater lakes and streams that are infrequently used by the public for primary contact recreational activities. Infrequent use occurs where people only access the waterbody rarely or occasionally. Typical examples of Tier D waters include, but are not limited to: most concrete-lined storm water channels in the urbanized areas of the watershed and many of the ephemeral streams located in the undeveloped areas of the watershed. Single sample maximum values for Tier D waters are calculated using a 95% confidence factor. (See Table 5-REC1-ssv, below).

REC1 waters listed in the Basin Plan are proposed to be assigned to one of these Tiers. The proposed assignments are shown in Table 5 - REC1-Tiers (Chapter 5 Implementation).

2.2.2.3 Proposed Amendment B.3 - Clarification of Definition of REC1 (Water Contact Recreation)

REC1 waters are currently defined in the Basin Plan as follows:

Water Contact Recreation (REC1)⁸ waters are used for recreational activities involving body contact with water where ingestion of water is reasonably possible. These uses may include, but are not limited to, swimming, wading, water-skiing, skin and scuba diving, surfing, whitewater activities, fishing, and use of natural hot springs.*

Amendment B.3 would clarify the definition as follows:

⁸ The "*" references a footnote to the definition of REC 1. This footnote, and proposed changes, is discussed in the following section, B.4.

Primary Contact Recreation (REC1) waters are used for recreational activities involving deliberate water contact, especially by children, where ingestion is likely to occur. Examples of REC1 may include, but are not limited to: swimming, water-skiing, surfing, whitewater rafting, float tubing, bathing in natural hot springs, skin diving, scuba diving and some forms of wading and fishing. Brief incidental or accidental water contact that is limited primarily to the body extremities (e.g. hands and feet), is not generally deemed Primary Contact Recreation because ingestion is not likely to occur.*

The clarifications are based, in part, on consideration of the nature of the recreational use for which the USEPA published bacteria quality criteria in 1986. Specifically, the 1986 criteria are intended to address water contact recreation where the ingestion of water is likely or expected. The USEPA defines this type of recreational activity as “primary contact recreation,” which is and has been regarded historically as functionally equivalent to the REC1 beneficial use. To assure that the national bacteria criteria are properly applied, the proposed modifications to the REC1 definition are designed to conform as closely as possible to the USEPA’s description of Primary Contact Recreation.

As noted in the proposed clarified definition, incidental or accidental contact limited primarily to the body extremities is not likely to result in exposure via ingestion. Further, some forms of wading and fishing are not likely to result in such exposure. Special recognition of the potential for ingestion by children is explicitly provided in the proposed definition. The phrase “reasonably possible” in the current Basin Plan definition is subject to wide variation in interpretation, which has the potential to result in inappropriate designation of the surface waters. This phrase would be replaced with “likely”.

2.2.2.4 Proposed Amendment B.4 – Revision of Existing Footnote Regarding REC1 and REC2 Designations

Currently, the definitions of REC1 and REC2 waters include the following footnote:

The REC1 and REC2 beneficial use designations assigned to surface waterbodies in this Region should not be construed as encouraging recreational activities. In some cases, such as Lake Matthews and certain reaches of the Santa Ana River, access to the waterbodies is prohibited because of potentially hazardous conditions and/or because of the need to protect other uses, such as municipal supply or sensitive wildlife habitat. Where REC1 or REC2 is indicated as a beneficial use in Table 3-1, the designations are intended to indicate that the uses exist or that the water quality of the waterbody could support uses.

Proposed Amendment B.4 would revise the footnote as follows. Proposed new text is shown in **bold** and underlined, deleted text is shown in ~~strikeout~~:

Proposed revised footnote (changes from the existing definition are shown in italics):

*The REC1 and REC2 beneficial use designations assigned to surface waterbodies in this Region should not be construed as encouraging **or authorizing** recreational activities. In some case, such as Lake Mathews and certain reaches of the Santa Ana River **and its tributaries**, access to the water bodies is prohibited **by other agencies** because of potentially hazardous conditions and/or because of the need to protect other uses such as municipal water supply or sensitive wildlife habitat. Where REC1 or REC2 is identified as a beneficial use in Table 3-1, the designations are **only** intended to indicate that ~~the~~ **such** uses ~~exist~~ **may occur** or that the water quality of the waterbody ~~could support uses~~ **may be capable of supporting recreational uses unless a Use Attainability Analysis demonstrates otherwise and the Regional Board amends the Basin Plan accordingly.***

The proposed revisions are intended to document the Regional Board's understanding of the existing Basin Plan more accurately. The term "existing use" has special regulatory meaning under federal law and regulation; uses explicitly determined to be "existing" cannot be removed. Recreational uses in the Basin Plan are designated as "present or potential" (or, in some cases, as "intermittent"). Use of the word "exist" in the current footnote incorrectly suggests that the Regional Board has made an affirmative determination that these designated uses are "existing." Revising the terminology in the footnote merely corrects the currently understood status of recreational beneficial use designations.

2.2.2.5 Proposed Amendment B.5 - Re-designation of Specific Waters Based on Use Attainability Analyses

Currently all surface waters in the Santa Ana Region are assumed to have present or potential REC1 use. If such a designation is inappropriate because recreational uses cannot be and have not been achieved in certain water bodies, such uses can be downgraded or deleted after a Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) is performed. Pursuant to the Clean Water Act, a UAA is a structured scientific assessment of the factors affecting the attainment of uses, including physical, chemical, biological, and economic considerations. A designated use may be removed provided that it is not an existing use and that it can be demonstrated that attaining the designated use is not feasible because:

1. Naturally occurring pollutant concentrations prevent the attainment of the use; or
2. Natural, ephemeral, intermittent or low flow conditions or water levels prevent the attainment of the use, unless these conditions may be compensated for by the discharge of sufficient volume of effluent discharges without violating State water conservation requirements to enable uses to be met; or
3. Human caused conditions or sources of pollution prevent the attainment of the use and cannot be remedied or would cause more environmental damage to correct than to leave in place; or

4. Dams, diversions or other types of hydrologic modifications preclude the attainment of the use, and it is not feasible to restore the water body to its original condition or to operate such modification in a way that would result in the attainment of the use; or
5. Physical conditions related to the natural features of the water body, such as the lack of a proper substrate, cover, flow, depth, pools, riffles, and the like, unrelated to water quality, preclude attainment of aquatic life protection uses; or
6. Controls more stringent than those required by sections 301(b) and 306 of the [Clean Water] Act would result in substantial and widespread economic and social impact.

The proposed amendments include re-designations of specific water bodies from REC1 and REC2 to REC2 only, or, where neither REC1 nor REC2 use is attainable, to “not-REC” (a footnote would be added to those waters not designated either REC1 or REC2 to reflect that the Regional Board has made an affirmative determination through a UAA that neither of these uses is attainable; these waters are also proposed to be listed in a separate new table (Table 3-2) in the Basin Plan). UAAs have been prepared for each of the water bodies to demonstrate that REC1, and for some water bodies REC2, uses are neither existing nor attainable. The proposed re-designations would be reviewed at least once every three years to determine whether any changes to conditions in the water bodies have occurred such that REC1 or REC2 use is attainable and either or both designations should be reinstated.

Waters considered for re-designation include sections of the following water bodies:

- Santa Ana-Delhi Channel
- Greenville/Banning Channel
- Temescal Creek
- Cucamonga Channel

All of the sections of these waters proposed for re-designation would be no longer be designated REC1, but would continue to be designated as REC2, with the exception of Reach 1 of Santa Ana Delhi Channel, Reach 1 of Greenville Banning Channel, Reach 1b of Temescal Creek, and Reach 1 of Cucamonga Creek, which would be annotated with the footnote reflecting that they are neither REC1 nor REC2. The water bodies proposed for re-designation are shown in figures in the following sections.

2.2.3 Addition / Deletion of Specific Surface Waters

As noted above and discussed in the staff report for these amendments, two reservoirs (Laguna and Lambert) are no longer in existence and it is proposed to remove them from the Basin Plan. No further regulation of these now non-existent

waters would be necessary and thus the removal of these waters would not have any adverse impacts on the environment. No further discussion of this amendment is necessary and none is included in the subsequent text of this document.

Waters proposed to be added to the Basin Plan include:

- Santa Ana-Delhi Channel
- Los Cerritos Wetlands
- Huntington Beach Wetlands
- Mystic Lake
- Goodhart Canyon Creek
- Saint Johns Canyon Creek
- Cactus Valley Creek
- Greenville-Banning Channel

Beneficial use designations for these waters are proposed to be added as well. Water quality objectives that are now specified in the Basin Plan to protect these uses would apply to these waters; no water-body specific objectives are proposed or anticipated at this time. The addition of these waters and beneficial use designations are not expected to have a substantive regulatory effect. Per the federal Clean Water Act and implementing regulations, all surface waters, whether or not specifically listed in the Basin Plan are presumed to be “fishable/swimmable,” unless a UAA demonstrates that fishable/swimmable uses are neither existing nor attainable. Therefore, in regulatory activities necessary to protect the water quality and beneficial uses of these as yet unlisted waters, the Regional Board would apply water quality objectives already established to protect these, and other beneficial uses, on a Best Professional Judgment basis, and would implement established policies, including the state antidegradation policy. The result is that it is not expected that there would be any significant difference in the regulatory requirements that would apply to these waters, and thus there is no anticipated environmental effect.

2.3 Identification of Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance

As discussed previously in Section 1.1, while the Regional Board cannot specify the particular manner of compliance with orders it adopts, the analysis conducted for this SED must address reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts of the reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance taking into account a range of environmental, economic, and other factors.

Currently, a variety of methods are in place and being implemented in an effort to achieve compliance with the Basin Plan bacteria objectives, including programs aimed at reducing urban runoff and stormwater pollution through implementation of structural and non-structural Best Management Practices (BMPs). These BMPs include site design measures such as minimizing impervious surfaces and establishment of treatment control systems such as infiltration, detention basins, or biotreatment, and source controls such as limits on non-stormwater discharges and spill prevention. As discussed below, the proposed amendments primarily involve changes to the indicator bacteria used as the basis for setting objectives in the Basin Plan, and beneficial use designations, which would not trigger the need for new BMPs or other compliance mechanisms that would not otherwise occur should the proposed amendments not be adopted. In other words, BMPs would continue to be implemented and maintained whether or not the proposed amendments are adopted. In addition the amendments are not anticipated to substantially change the manner or type of BMPs that are implemented in the future.

2.3.1 Revisions to Bacteria Water Quality Objectives

The change in bacteria objectives, from fecal coliform to *E. coli*, would result in the need for changes in the monitoring plans which must be prepared by agencies required to comply with the Basin Plan. As previously described, the TMDLs developed to address pathogen impairment in the Santa Ana Region include a numeric target for *E. coli*, so some testing for *E. coli* already occurs.

The types of BMPs needed to achieve bacteria objectives will not change as the result of the change from fecal coliform to *E. coli* as the indicator organism specified in the objectives. The number of BMPs needed to achieve the revised objectives is not expected to increase. Rather, incorporating the high flow suspension of recreation standards is expected to reduce the number of BMPs that would otherwise be required to assure compliance during high flow conditions. Also, as discussed below (2.3.2), refining the recreation use designations for certain waters, through the UAA process, may allow the implementation of fewer, more strategically located BMPs that will assure the protection of downstream recreation uses. Further, changing the bacteria indicator is not anticipated to change the specific waters bodies that are identified as exceeding bacterial levels as the water bodies that currently exceed levels for fecal coliform would also be expected to exceed levels for *E. coli*. Similarly, water bodies that are within acceptable levels for fecal coliform would likely be within acceptable levels for *E. coli*. Thus, the change in indicator bacteria is not anticipated to result in an increase in the number of water bodies which exceed the bacteria objectives, thereby becoming subject to implementation of new BMPs that would otherwise not be expected to be implemented.

Adopting a narrative Pathogen Objective (Proposed Amendment A.4) is aimed at providing greater regulatory support and flexibility to specify permit limitations and monitoring requirements and would not trigger the need for new foreseeable compliance methods.

The MUN bacteria objective proposed for deletion (Proposed Amendment A.5) serves to eliminate an obsolete objective and would not trigger the need for new foreseeable compliance methods.

2.3.2 Revisions to Beneficial Uses

As described previously, the temporary suspension of recreational use designations and bacteria objectives during high flow conditions is primarily related to public safety concerns during high flow conditions and hydrologic conditions rather than bacteria densities in the water. This temporary suspension would not require new foreseeable methods of compliance. In fact, the suspension would be expected to result in a reduction in the number of BMPs that would need to be implemented in order to achieve compliance with the objectives under high flow conditions that meet the proposed suspension criteria.

The proposed assignment of REC1 waterbodies to Tier A, B, C, or D is intended to clarify the frequency and intensity of recreational uses that occur in REC1 waters for the purposes of assigning single sample maximum *E. coli* values that decision-makers can use to assess the need to post-close recreation areas. No associated foreseeable changes to the methods of compliance are needed.

Similarly, the proposed changes in the REC1 definition and to the REC1 and REC2 footnote are designed to bring the definition to closer conformity with the USEPA description of Primary Contract Recreation, and to better clarify the status of recreational beneficial use designations, respectively. The proposed changes in the wording have no associated foreseeable changes to the methods of compliance.

As noted above, the change in designation of a water body from REC1 to REC2 or neither REC1 nor REC2 could result in a reduction in required monitoring and a reduction in the need for future implementation of BMPs to improve water quality to REC1 standards. However, pursuant to the Antidegradation Policy, existing high water quality must be maintained and thus existing BMPs must be maintained. Further, new BMPs may be needed assure that water quality, including that of downstream waters, would not degrade. However, the possible need for future BMPs would be less than would otherwise occur should the waters remain designated REC1. Therefore, the re-designation would not trigger new foreseeable methods of compliance than would otherwise occur.

As the water quality of waters designated as REC2 or neither REC1 nor REC2 would be maintained and would not be allowed to deteriorate, no adverse changes to the water quality of the receiving water are anticipated. Thus, the proposed re-designations would not result in the need for additional BMPs in the receiving waters than would otherwise occur.

2.3.3 Conclusion

As described above, the only reasonable foreseeable method of compliance related to the proposed Basin Plan amendments involves minor revisions to monitoring plans to

change the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli*. While BMPs would continue to be implemented and maintained should the Basin Plan amendments be approved, the amendments are not anticipated to result in the need for new BMPs or implementation of other compliance methods that would not otherwise occur should the amendments not be approved. Should BMPs or other compliance methods associated with the Proposed Project be implemented, a project specific environmental review would be conducted by the lead agency and any potential environmental impacts would be addressed during that process.

Section 3

Environmental Setting

3.1 Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The Santa Ana River watershed is located in southern California, south and east of the City of Los Angeles. In very broad terms, the Santa Ana Region is a group of connected inland basins and open coastal basins drained by surface streams flowing generally southwestward to the Pacific Ocean. It is the smallest of the State's nine regions at approximately 2,800 square miles. It includes the upper and lower Santa Ana River watersheds, the San Jacinto River watershed, and several other small drainage areas. It includes the northern portion of Orange County, the northwestern corner of Riverside County, and the southwestern corner of San Bernardino County.

The Santa Ana Basin is one of the most densely populated of all of the nine Regions with approximately 5 million people living in the region. Land use ranges from pristine forests to highly developed urban areas. The area is subject to a variety of pollution sources from industrial, agricultural and urban activities. Approximately 32 percent of the land use is developed as residential, commercial, or industrial uses. The nature of surface waters in the Basin varies considerably in relation to land use. Surface streams in mountainous/undeveloped areas are generally unmodified while surface waters in developed areas are generally modified/armored to varying degrees to assure protection from flooding.

River drainages generally flow from east to west. The highest elevations of the watershed occur in the San Bernardino, San Gabriel and San Jacinto Mountains. In the central part of the watershed, the Santa Ana Mountains and the Chino Hills form a topographic high before the River flows onto the Coastal Plain and into the Pacific Ocean.

The climate of the Santa Ana Region is classified as Mediterranean: generally dry in the summer with mild, wet winters. The average annual rainfall in the region is about 15 inches, most of it occurring between November and March. Most streams within the basin carry minimal flow throughout most of the year except in response to rainfall events, or as a result of man-made discharges such as wastewater treatment effluent discharges or imported water releases. During the winter season, storms can bring significant rainfall resulting in high flow rates within the River and tributary streams and channels.

The waters proposed for re-designation from REC1 to REC2 or "not REC" (i.e., neither REC1 nor REC2) are in various locations in Orange, and Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Following is a description of each:

3.1.1 Santa Ana Delhi Channel

The Santa Ana Delhi Channel watershed (approximately 20 square miles) is located in Orange County and includes portions of the Cities of Santa Ana, Costa Mesa, and Newport Beach (Figure 3-1). The channel is not currently separately listed in the

Basin Plan, but is proposed to be added. Three “reaches” are identified for the channel as described below:

- “Tidal Prism” – Bridge at University Avenue / Upper Newport Bay to 1,036 ft upstream (near pedestrian bridge at the end of University Drive in Newport Beach)
- “Reach 1” – Tidal Prism to Sunflower Avenue / Flower Street (in Santa Ana)
- “Reach 2” – Sunflower Avenue / Flower Street to Warner Avenue (in Santa Ana)

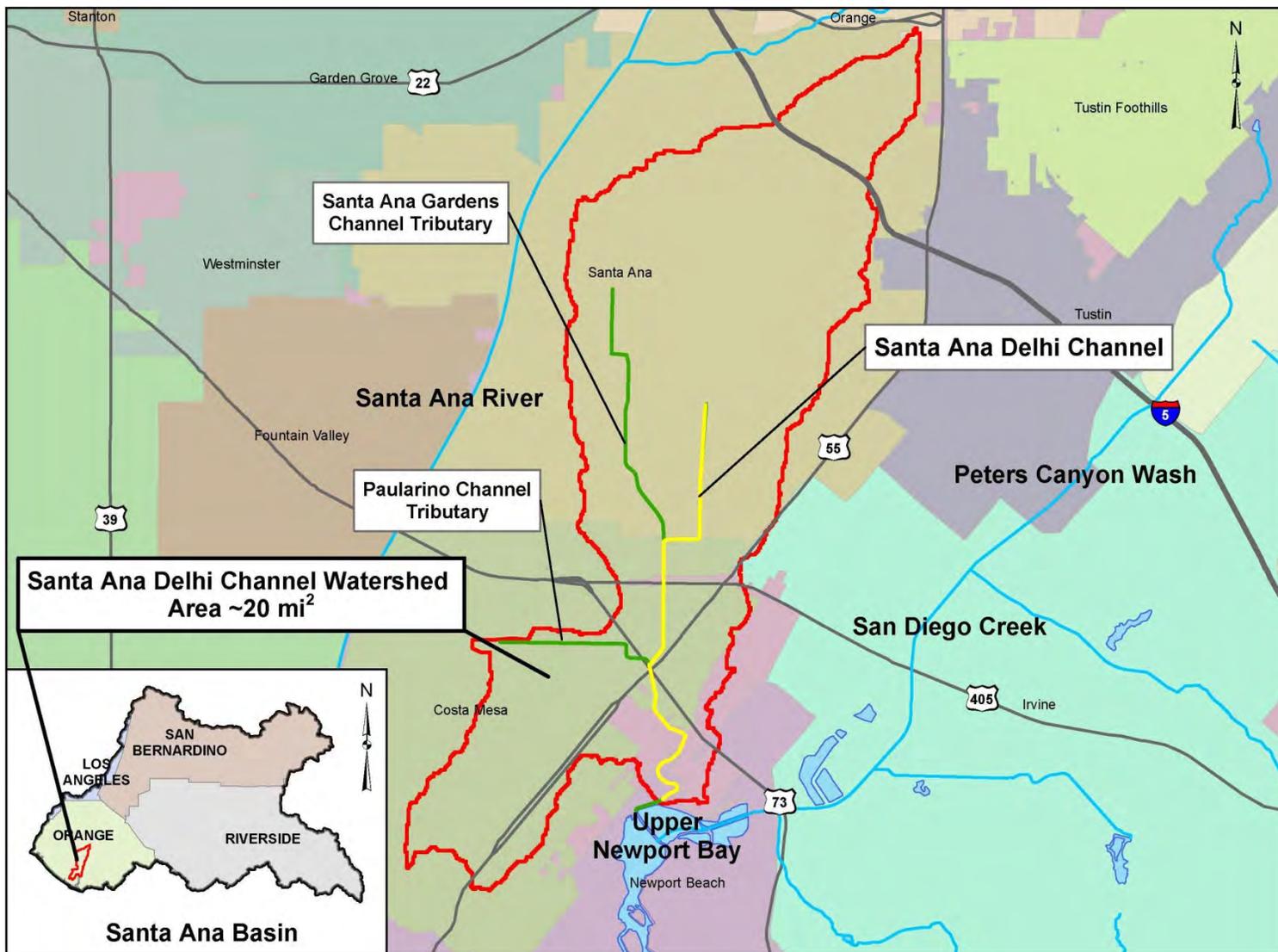


Figure 3-1
Map of Santa Ana Delhi Channel Watershed



Figure 3-2
Santa Ana Delhi Channel (Looking Upstream at Reach 2)

Local underground storm drains within the City of Santa Ana discharge into the upstream end of Reach 2 and at other locations along the Delhi channel. Underground storm drains within the Cities of Costa Mesa and Newport Beach discharge into Reach 1. Two major tributary channels flow into Reach 1, which were not considered for recreation use re-designation in the UAA: (1) Santa Ana Gardens Channel flows into the upstream end; and (2) Paularino Channel flows into the closed culvert portion. The Santa Ana Delhi Channel flows into Upper Newport Bay near University Drive.

The Santa Ana-Delhi Channel has been significantly modified for flood control purposes. It is comprised of vertical, trapezoidal, and closed culvert segments, with segments of significant widening and permanent armoring. The upper part of the watershed draining to Reach 1 is largely developed with commercial/institutional uses, while the lower part of the watershed draining to Reach 1 has been developed with residential and commercial/industrial uses, with some open space area. The area of the watershed that drains to Reach 2 mostly consists of residential uses with some commercial / institutional uses. According to channel record drawings and field verification, open channel segments are fenced and gated to deter access. Fencing ends at the downstream end as the channel transitions to Upper Newport Bay.

3.1.2 Greenville-Banning Channel

The Greenville-Banning Channel watershed (approximately 9 square miles) is located in Orange County and includes portions of the Cities of Costa Mesa and Santa Ana (shown in Figure 3-3).

The entire length of the channel proposed for recreational use re-designation, described as two “reaches”:

- “Tidal Prism” - Confluence with Santa Ana River to the Diversion Dam (located approximately 0.23 miles downstream of the confluence with Fairview Channel)
- “Reach 1” - Diversion Dam to California Street (in Costa Mesa)

Local underground storm drains within the City of Costa Mesa discharge into the Greenville-Banning Channel. Fairview Channel is the single tributary channel flowing into Greenville-Banning Channel. The watershed draining to Reach 1 is largely developed as residential and open space areas, including the Talbert Nature Reserve. The downstream end of the Greenville-Banning Channel above the confluence with the Santa Ana River is subject to tidal influence due to its proximity to the Pacific Ocean. The Greenville-Banning Channel has been significantly modified for flood control purposes and it is comprised of vertical and trapezoidal segments of significant widening and permanent armoring.

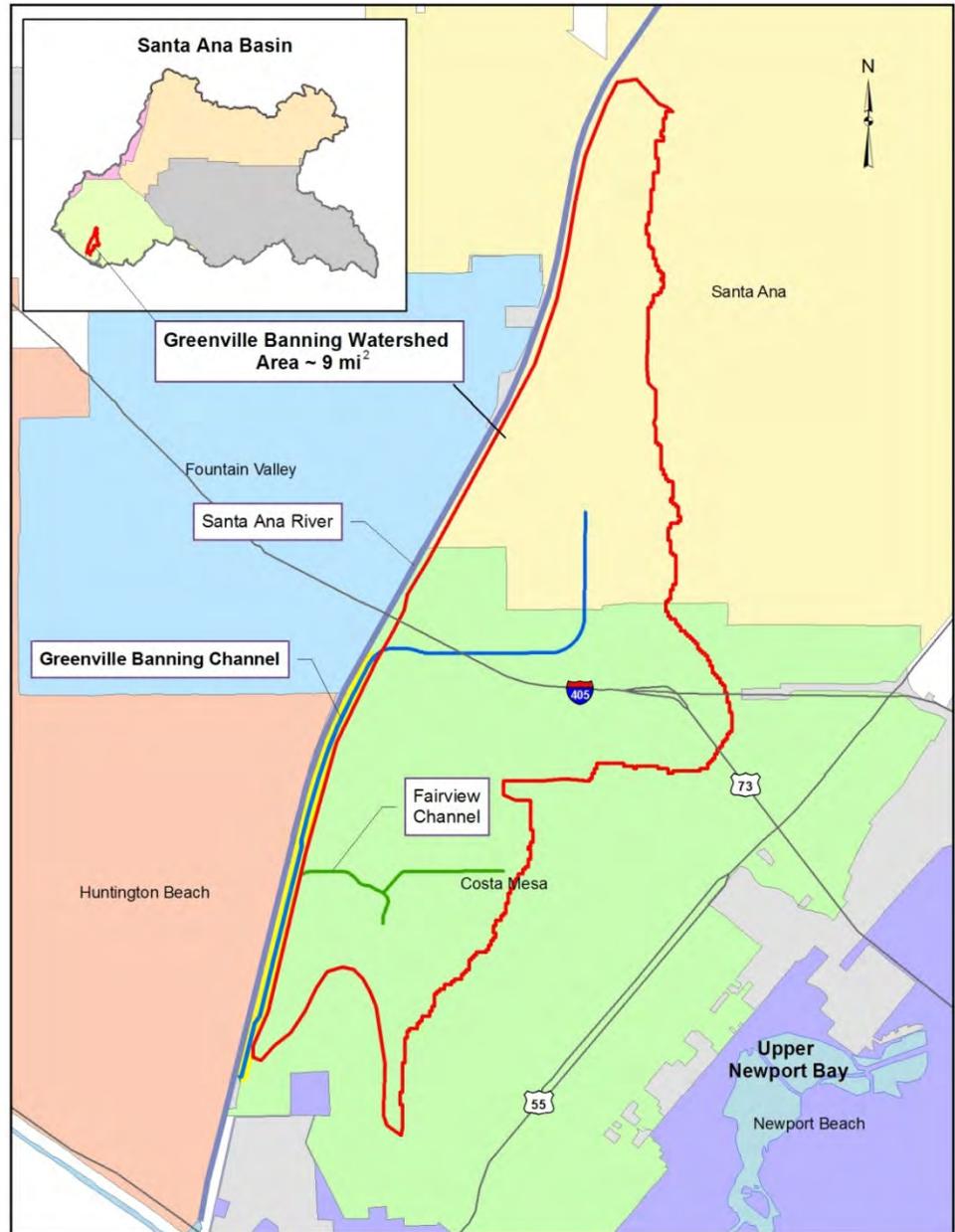


Figure 3-3
Map of Greenville-Banning Channel Watershed



Figure 3-4
Greenville-Banning Channel
(Facing Downstream - Trapezoidal Channel to Vertical Channel Transition)

3.1.3 Temescal Creek

The Temescal Creek watershed (shown in Figure 3-5) is located in Riverside County and is approximately 200 square miles in size. Temescal Creek extends approximately 28 miles from Lake Elsinore to the Prado Basin.

Two “reaches” are proposed for recreational use re-designation:

- “Reach 1a” - Lincoln Avenue to confluence with Arlington Channel.
- “Reach 1b” - Arlington Channel confluence to 1,400 ft upstream of Magnolia Avenue.

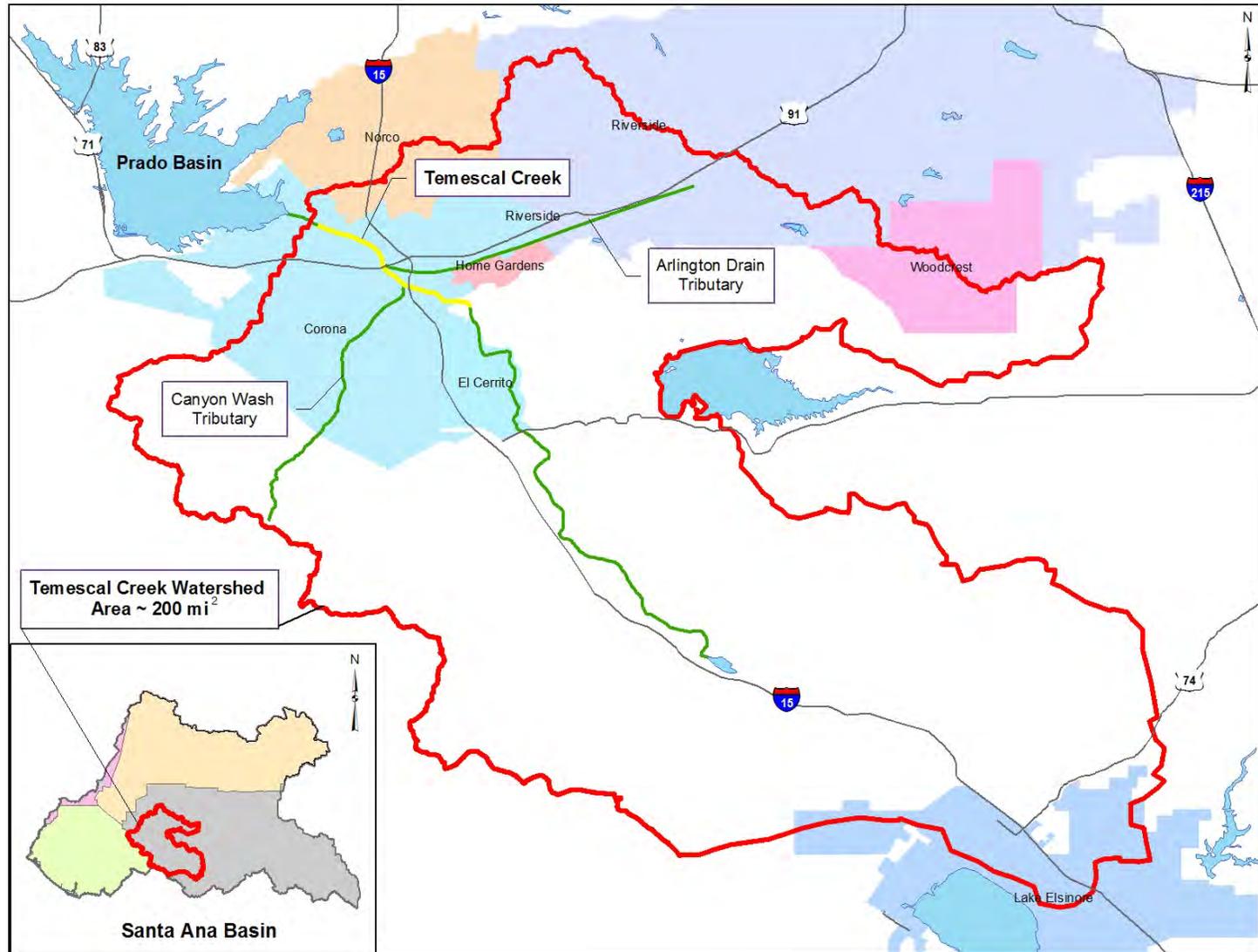


Figure 3-5
Map of Temescal Creek Watershed



Figure 3-6
Temescal Creek (Looking Upstream Reach 1a)

Local underground storm drains within the City of Corona discharge into Reach 1a. Other local underground storm drains within the City of Corona and natural stream flow discharge into the upstream end of Reach 1b. Two major tributary channels (not proposed for re-designation) flow into the creek: (1) Arlington Drain flows into the creek at the Reach 1a/Reach 1b boundary; (2) Canyon Wash flows into Reach 1a north of East 6th Street. Reach 1a then flows into Prado Basin.

The watershed draining to Reach 1a and Reach 1b is largely developed with commercial/ industrial uses, and pockets of residential uses. Temescal Creek has been significantly modified for flood control purposes and is comprised of vertical and trapezoidal segments with segments of significant widening and permanent armoring.

3.1.4 Cucamonga Creek

The Cucamonga Creek watershed (approximately 92 square miles) is located in San Bernardino County and Riverside County and includes portions of the cities of Chino, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, and Upland (see Figure 3-7).

The proposed recreational use re-designation covers the portion of Cucamonga Creek from its confluence with Mill Creek to 23rd Street in Upland (Reach 1). Typical channel conditions along this portion are shown in Figure 3-8.

Lower Deer Creek Channel, West Cucamonga Channel, Upper Deer Canyon Wash, and Demens Channel (not proposed for re-designation) are tributary to Cucamonga Creek Reach 1. Local underground storm drains within the City of Ontario also discharge into this reach. This reach of Cucamonga Creek flows into Prado Basin.

The watershed draining to this reach is largely agricultural, residential and mixed urban, with vacant natural lands. Cucamonga Creek has been significantly modified for flood control purposes and the channel is comprised of trapezoidal segments, with segments of significant widening and permanent armoring.

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency's Regional Water Recycling Plant No. 1 (RP-1) discharges approximately 2.8 million gallons per day of treated wastewater flows to Cucamonga Creek.

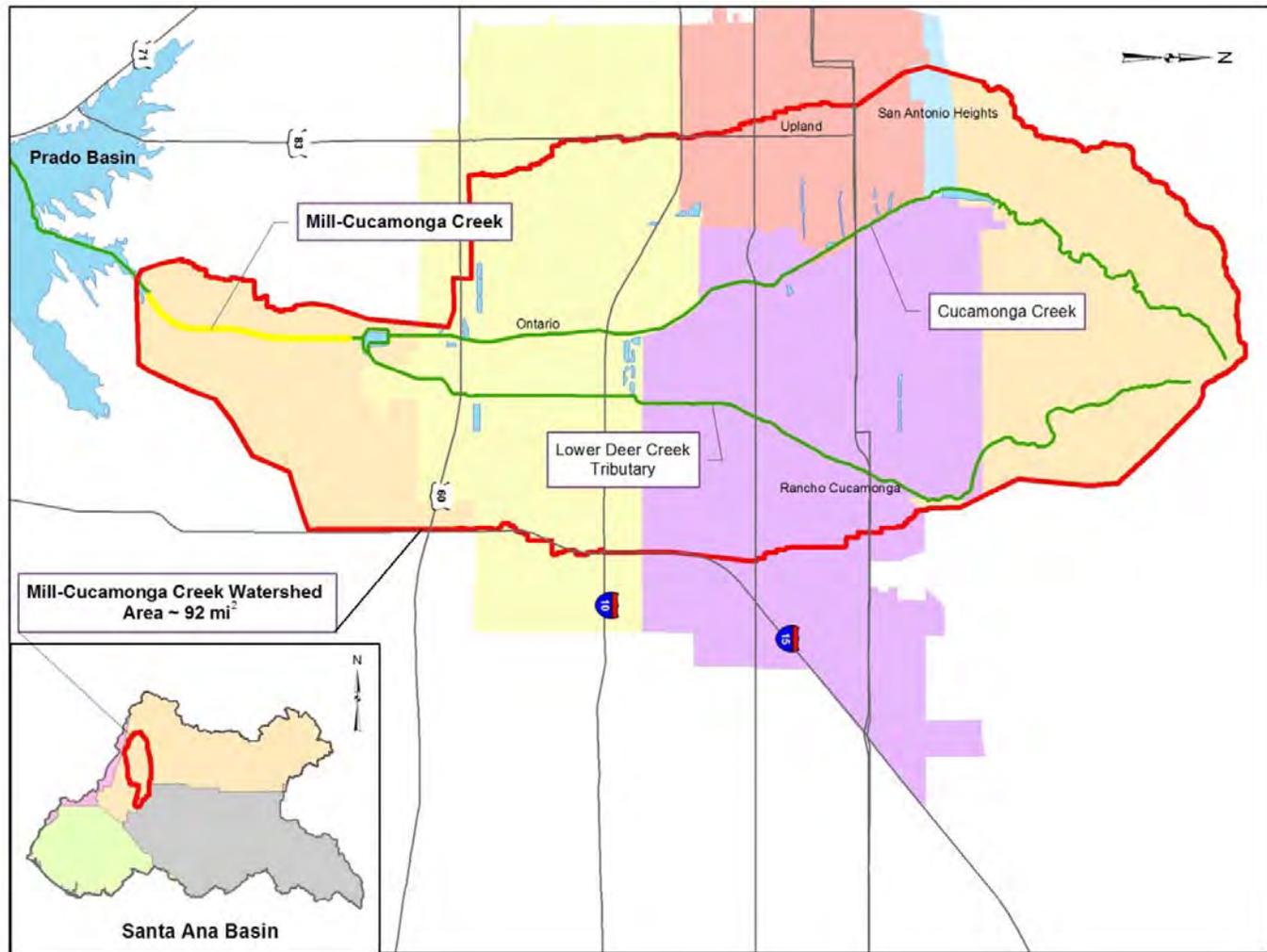


Figure 3-7
Map of Cucamonga Creek Watershed



Figure 3-8
Cucamonga Creek (Looking Upstream near Hellman Avenue)

Section 4

Environmental Issues

This section presents the Environmental Checklist, evaluates the potential impacts of the project relative to 17 environmental issue areas, and presents mandatory findings of significance required under CEQA. The analysis begins with a summary delineation of the environmental factors (issue areas) addressed in the checklist and whether any potentially significant impacts have been identified in the analysis, and is followed by an explanation of the environmental factors potentially affected.

In formulating answers to the checklist questions, the Regional Board staff evaluated the environmental effects of the Proposed Project in the context of the existing regulatory and environmental setting (see Sections 1.1 and 3 respectively). Social or economic changes related to a physical change in the environment were also considered in determining whether there would be a significant effect on the environment; however, adverse social and economic impacts alone are not considered significant effects on the environment. Section 15382 of the CEQA Guidelines defines a significant effect on the environment as *“a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance. A social or economic change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment. A social or economic change related to a physical change may be considered in determining whether the physical change is significant.”*

Section 4 provides an evaluation of, and presents significance findings for, both the proposed amendments and reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance. The proposed amendment package is analyzed in its entirety unless specified otherwise (i.e., individual amendments are discussed separately only when relevant to a specific resource area). The analysis of foreseeable methods of compliance addresses only updates to the monitoring plans to change the bacteria indicator analyzed from fecal coliform to *E. coli* and minor changes in sampling and testing methods (see Section 2.3). As previously discussed (see Section 2.3), changing the applicable bacteria objectives to employ a different pathogen indicator, as proposed in the amendments, would not result in significant changes, if any, in the types or numbers of BMPs needed to meet the bacteria objectives. In fact, the proposed re-designation of certain waters from REC1 to REC2 or “not REC” (neither REC1 nor REC2) and temporary suspension of recreation standards are expected to reduce the number of BMPs that will need to be implemented, thereby reducing potential impacts on the environment. As BMPs are implemented, site-specific, project level CEQA review and conformance will be necessary. The following analysis recognizes that BMP implementation has the potential to effect a number of the resource areas considered but also finds that implementation of the BMPs needed to achieve compliance with the proposed amendments would not have potential effects different from those already associated with BMPs needed to achieve compliance with the current Basin Plan standards.

The Regional Board staff's review concluded that adoption of the Basin Plan amendments and implementation of the reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance do not have the potential to result in significant adverse impacts on any of the 17 resource areas. However, pursuant to Section 13360 of the California Water Code, the Regional Board cannot define the specific actions that entities would take to comply with requirements derived from the amendments. While no substantial physical changes resulting from implementation of the Proposed Project are foreseeable at this time, specific compliance actions will be subject to CEQA review and/or approval by the Regional Board or other responsible agencies once they have been developed. As a result, the Regional Board (or other lead/responsible agencies under CEQA) could either disapprove actions with significant and unacceptable environmental impacts, or require implementation of mitigation measures (e.g., best construction management practices) to ensure that potential environmental impacts associated with such actions are reduced to less than significant levels.

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected:

The following environmental factors were considered as part of this analysis.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology /Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gases | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/ Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

The checklist on the following pages assesses the potential effect of the proposed project on these environmental factors.

Preliminary Staff Determination:

- The proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and, therefore, no alternatives or mitigation measures are proposed.
- The proposed project **MAY** have a significant or potentially significant effect on the environment, and therefore alternatives and mitigation measures have been evaluated.

Signature

Date

Printed Name/Title

Date

Environmental Factors (Issue Areas):

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS: Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion:

- a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. These revisions would not result in changes to a scenic vista or other aesthetic resources.

As discussed further under **IX. Hydrology and Water Quality a)**, water quality of the water bodies proposed to be re-designated from REC1 to REC2/"not REC" (neither REC1 nor REC2) would not be allowed to degrade beyond existing conditions and thus no visual changes (i.e., increase in trash or nuisance algae) are anticipated as a result of re-designation.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not result in changes to a scenic vista or other aesthetic resources.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- b) Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

See **I. Aesthetics a)** above.

- c) Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

See **I. Aesthetics a)** above.

- d) Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

See **I. Aesthetics a)** above.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Boards. Would the project:</p>				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion:

- a) Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. These revisions would not result in conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural use or otherwise affect agricultural operations.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not convert agricultural land to non-agricultural use or otherwise affect agricultural operations.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- b) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?

See **II. Agriculture and Forest Resources a)** above.

- c) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. These revisions would not affect zoning for forest land or timberland, or otherwise result in the conversion of forest land or timberland to non-forest land/timberland use.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not affect zoning for forest land or timberland, or otherwise result in the conversion of forest land or timberland to non-forest land/timberland use.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- d) Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

See II. **Agriculture and Forest Resources c)** above.

- e) Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

See II. **Agriculture and Forest Resources a)** and **c)** above.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. AIR QUALITY: Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion:

- a) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plans?

The Santa Ana Region is within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), a 6,600-square mile basin encompassing all of Orange County, most of Los Angeles and Riverside Counties, and the western portion of San Bernardino County, which is under the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). SCAB is currently designated as a nonattainment area for both national and state 1-hour ozone and particulate matter (PM) standards. SCAQMD is responsible for administering the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), which is a comprehensive air pollution control program for attaining federal and state ambient air quality standards.

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. These revisions would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the AQMP or any other air quality plans.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the AQMP or any other air quality plans.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- b) Would the project violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

Under the SCAQMD, the SCAB is designed as a nonattainment area for ozone and particulate matter. In addition, the SCAB is designated as a maintenance area for carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide and is in attainment for sulfur dioxide. In determining attainment and maintenance of air quality standards, the SCAQMD has established thresholds of significance for these and other criteria pollutants. A significant impact would occur if project operation results in substantial emissions which would exceed the established thresholds.

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The Basin Plan amendments would not involve new construction activities, increased traffic generation, or other activities that could generate emissions that are different from those already required to meet the existing bacteria objectives. Thus, the proposed amendments would not result in exceedances of established thresholds for criteria pollutants or otherwise

result in a violation of air quality standards or substantially contribute to existing or projected air quality violations.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not involve construction activities, increased traffic generation, or other activities that would generate emissions. Thus, the proposed amendments would not result in exceedances of established thresholds for criteria pollutants or otherwise result in a violation of air quality standards or substantially contribute to existing or projected air quality violations.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- c) Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emission which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

As indicated above, the SCAB is currently in non-attainment for several criteria pollutants.

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The Basin Plan amendments would not involve changes in construction activities, increased traffic generation, or other activities that would generate emissions that would exceed established thresholds for criteria pollutants or otherwise result in a violation of air quality standards or substantially contribute to existing or projected air quality violations (see also III. Air Quality, b., above). Thus, the proposed amendments would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the region is in non-attainment.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not involve construction activities, increased traffic generation, or other activities that would generate emissions that would exceed established thresholds for criteria pollutants or otherwise result in a violation of air quality standards or substantially contribute to existing or projected air quality violations. Thus, the proposed amendments would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- d) Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

See III. Air Quality b) and c) above.

- e) Would the project create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would not involve changes in construction activities, increased traffic generation, or other activities that could generate objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people (see also III. Air Quality, b., above). The water quality of the water bodies that would be re-designated from REC1 to REC2/"not REC" (neither REC1 nor REC2) would not be allowed to degrade beyond existing conditions and thus conditions in the waterbodies that might result in the potential for creation or release of objectionable odors are not anticipated to change as a result of re-designation.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not involve construction activities, increased traffic generation, or other activities that that could generate objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion:

- a) Would the project have a substantial adverse impact, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. The bacteria quality objectives apply to the protection of public health, not to wildlife or wildlife habitat. Therefore, changes to those objectives, as proposed, would not have any direct or indirect on biological resources. Direct or indirect (e.g., changes in water quality that might affect habitat suitability) impacts to candidate, sensitive or special-status species could result from the implementation of BMPs needed to meet bacteria objectives. Implementation of the amendments would not result in significant changes, if

any, in the number or type of BMPs required to achieve the objectives. Thus, the amendments would not have any different potential direct or indirect effects on the biota, including candidate/sensitive/special status species, than implementation of the current recreation standards. Implementation of BMPs to meet either the current or proposed bacteria objectives would require project-specific consideration of CEQA requirements, including avoidance and mitigation measures.

Certain waters are proposed to be designated only REC2 or “not REC” (neither REC1 nor REC2). Bacteria targets for these waters will be based on consideration of the state’s antidegradation policy (State Board Resolution No. 68-16), rather than USEPA’s national criteria, which were developed to protect public health and primary contact recreation (REC1) uses. Conformance with the antidegradation policy will assure that no lowering of water quality that would significantly adversely affect beneficial uses in the re-designated waters or in downstream waters will be permitted. Thus, changes in beneficial use designations for certain waters will not directly or indirectly adversely impact candidate, sensitive or special status species, either within the re-designated waters themselves or in downstream waters.

Similarly, the temporary suspension of recreation standards will have no direct or indirect adverse effect on the biota. No changes in water quality that might adversely affect the biota would result from the suspension of bacteria objectives. Reductions of the number/magnitude of BMPs that might otherwise be necessary to meet recreation standards during the suspension conditions would reduce the potential environmental effects of implementation of these measures.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator to *E. coli* would not affect sensitive species directly or indirectly.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- b) Would the project have a substantial adverse impact on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

See **IV. Biological Resources a)** above.

- c) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marshes, vernal pools, coastal wetlands, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. These revisions would not result in removal, filling, hydrologic interruption, or other disturbance of wetlands; nor would they adversely impact water quality. Therefore, the proposed amendments would not have a substantial adverse effect on wetlands. See also **IV. Biological Resources a)** above.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not adversely impact federally protected wetlands.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- d) Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of wildlife nursery sites?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: While inland water bodies within the region may serve as wildlife corridors or wildlife nursery sites, the proposed amendments would not involve construction or other modifications, including degradation of water quality that could interfere with the movement of wildlife species directly or indirectly. As previously discussed, (see **IV. Biological Resources a)** above and Section 2.3), changing the applicable bacteria objectives to employ a different pathogen indicator, as proposed in the amendments, will not result in significant changes, if any, in the types or numbers of BMPs needed to meet the bacteria objectives. The re-designation of certain waters from REC1 to REC2 or “not REC” (neither REC1 nor REC2) and the temporary suspension of recreation standards are expected to reduce the number of BMPs that will need to be implemented, thereby reducing potential impacts on the environment. As BMPs are implemented, site-specific, project level CEQA review and conformance will be necessary.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not have the potential to interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, including wildlife corridors or wildlife nursery sites.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- e) Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: As discussed in **IV. Biological Resources a) through d)** above, the proposed amendments would not adversely impact biological resources directly or indirectly. Likewise, the proposed amendments would not conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: As discussed in **IV. Biological Resources a) through d)** above, the minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not adversely impact biological resources. Likewise, the minor revisions to monitoring plans and methods would not conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- f) Would the project conflict with the provisions of adopted habitat conservation plan, natural communities' conservation plan, or any other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

See **IV. Biological Resources e)** above.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion:

- a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in significance of a historical resource as defined in State CEQA §15064.5?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. These revisions would not involve construction, earth movement, or other disturbance which could impact any structures or buried cultural resources. Changing the applicable bacteria objectives to employ a different pathogen indicator, as proposed in the amendments, will not result in significant changes, if any, in the types or numbers of BMPs needed to meet the bacteria objectives. The re-designation of certain waters from REC1 to REC2 or “not REC” (neither REC1 nor REC2) and temporary suspension of recreation standards are expected to reduce the number of BMPs that will need to be implemented, thereby reducing potential impacts on the environment. As BMPs are implemented, site-specific, project level CEQA review and conformance will be necessary.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not involve construction, earth movement, or other disturbance which could impact any historic structures or buried cultural resources.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- b. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to State CEQA §15064.5?

See **V. Cultural Resources a)** above.

- c. Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

See **V. Cultural Resources a)** above.

- d. Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

See **V. Cultural Resources a)** above.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS -- Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the action, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion:

- a) Would the project expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
- (i.) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the state geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

Several major earthquake faults are located in the Santa Ana region, including the San Andreas Fault, the San Jacinto Fault, the Elsinore-Whittier Fault, and the Newport-Inglewood Fault.

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. These revisions would not involve the construction of habitable structures or otherwise result in any human safety risks related to fault rupture, seismic ground-shaking, ground failure, or landslides. Changing the applicable bacteria objectives to employ a different pathogen indicator, as proposed in the amendments, will not result in significant changes, if any, in the types or numbers of BMPs needed to meet the bacteria objectives. The re-designation of certain waters from REC1 to REC2 or "not REC" (neither REC1 nor REC2) and temporary suspension of recreation standards are expected to reduce the number of BMPs that will need to be implemented, thereby reducing potential impacts on the environment. As BMPs are implemented, site-specific, project level CEQA review and conformance will be necessary.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not involve the construction of habitable structures or otherwise result in any human safety risks related to fault rupture, seismic ground-shaking, ground failure, or landslides.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- (ii.) Strong seismic ground shaking?
See VI. Geology and Soils a)(i.) above.
- (iii.) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?
See VI. Geology and Soils a)(i.) above.

(iv.) Landslides?

See VI. Geology and Soils a)(i.) above.

b) Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. These revisions would not involve construction or other earthmoving activities that could result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Changing the applicable bacteria objectives to employ a different pathogen indicator, as proposed in the amendments, will not result in significant changes, if any, in the types or numbers of BMPs needed to meet the bacteria objectives. The re-designation of certain waters from REC1 to REC2 or “not REC” (neither REC1 nor REC2) and temporary suspension of recreation standards are expected to reduce the number of BMPs that will need to be implemented, thereby reducing potential impacts on the environment. As BMPs are implemented, site-specific, project level CEQA review and conformance will be necessary.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not involve construction or other earthmoving activities that could result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

c) Is the project located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the action, and potentially result in onsite or offsite landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: See VI. Geology and Soils a) and b). The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. These revisions would not involve construction or other earthmoving activities on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or would be unstable, potentially resulting in landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not involve construction or other earthmoving activities on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or would be

unstable, potentially resulting in landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- d) Is the project located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

See VI. Geology and Soils a), b), and c) above.

- e) Would the project have soils that are incapable of supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments do not entail the construction of wastewater disposal systems.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not require wastewater disposal systems; soil characteristics are not relevant to the consideration of monitoring-related changes. It is possible that compliance with the objectives in certain areas will require actions to address inadequate or failing septic systems or other wastewater disposal systems. These actions would be required in any case to meet the current Basin Plan objectives. Installation and operation of these systems are subject to the requirements imposed by the Regional Board and the counties. These requirements include the demonstration of soil capability for subsurface disposal system use.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion:

- a) Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain conditions. Changing the applicable bacteria objectives to employ a different pathogen indicator, as proposed in the amendments, will not result in significant changes, if any, in the types or numbers of BMPs needed to meet the bacteria objectives. Thus, these revisions would not result in new construction, generation of new traffic, or other activities that could generate greenhouse gas emissions. Similarly, the re-designation of certain waters from REC1 to REC2 or “not REC” (neither REC1 nor REC2) and temporary suspension of recreation standards are expected to reduce the number of BMPs that will need to be implemented, thereby reducing potential impacts on the environment, including greenhouse gas emissions. As BMPs are implemented, site-specific, project level CEQA review and conformance will be necessary.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not involve construction, generation of new traffic, or other activities that could generate greenhouse gas emissions.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- b) Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain conditions. As discussed in **VII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions a)** above, the revisions would not result in the generation greenhouse gas emissions, nor would they otherwise conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not, as discussed in **VII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions a)** above, generate greenhouse gas emissions, nor would they otherwise conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the

purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions involve construction, generation of new traffic, or other activities that could generate greenhouse gas emissions.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion:

- a) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. These revisions would not involve the transport, use, disposal, release, or transmission of hazardous materials.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not involve would not involve the transport, use, disposal, release, or transmission of hazardous materials.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- b) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the likely release of hazardous materials into the environment?

See **VIII. Hazards and Hazardous Materials a)** above.

- c) Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school?

See **VIII. Hazards and Hazardous Materials a)** above.

- d) Is the project located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. The revisions would not involve construction or other disturbance at a hazardous site such that a significant hazard to the public or the environment would be created.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not involve construction or other disturbance at a hazardous site such that a significant hazard to the public or the environment would be created.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. The revisions would not result in exposing people to a safety hazard associated with a public or private airport.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not result in exposing people to a safety hazard associated with a public or private airport.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- f) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

See **VIII. Hazards and Hazardous Materials e)** above.

- g) Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters,

and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. The revisions would not involve construction or other activities that could impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not involve construction or other activities that could impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- h) Would the project expose people or structures to the risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. The revisions would not expose people or structures to wildland fires.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not expose people or structures to wildland fires.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY: Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?				
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion:

- a) Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

As discussed in Section 2, the current Basin Plan for the Santa Ana Region establishes water quality standards for the surface and ground waters of the Santa Ana Region and provides the basis for the Regional Board's regulatory programs. The Basin Plan designates the beneficial uses of specific waterbodies within the Santa Ana Region and establishes water quality objectives for the protection of these uses. In addition, the California Water Code (Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act) requires that any entity discharging waste, or proposing to discharge waste that could affect the quality of the waters of the state must submit a report of waste discharge to the Regional Board. The Regional Board regulates such discharges by issuing general and individual WDRs including NPDES permits and conditional waivers of WDRs. These WDRs and waivers of WDRs require written pollution prevention plans and implementation of mitigation measures to ensure that discharges do not cause a violation of water quality objectives.

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: If approved, the proposed revisions to the bacteria water quality objectives, addition of a narrative pathogen objective and changes to beneficial use designations for inland freshwaters would establish new water quality standards applicable to these waters. These changes by themselves do not involve construction or other activities that would result in a waste discharge or otherwise violate water quality standards, nor would the proposed revisions result in a lowering of the existing water quality of waters affected by the proposed amendments. The implementation of BMPs needed to meet the revised standards has the potential to result in waste discharges that might adversely affect water quality standards. However, the proposed amendments would not result in an increase in or change in type of the BMPs that are being or may need to be implemented to achieve the current Basin Plan standards. The implementation of BMPs is subject to appropriate waste discharge requirements intended to assure no adverse water quality or beneficial use impacts. Further, BMPs are subject to project-level CEQA review and conformance.

The proposed temporary suspension of recreation standards under specified high flow conditions qualifies application of the recreation standards; the application of the suspension would not violate water quality standards. The temporary suspension of recreation standards is expected to reduce the number of BMPs that would otherwise be needed to assure compliance under the flow conditions that qualify for the suspension.

The change to the *E. coli* indicator is being proposed to assure consistency with USEPA guidance and recommendations as directed by the USEPA. The *E. coli* indicator is functionally equivalent to the existing fecal coliform indicator and is not anticipated to change the location, number, or severity of water bodies that attain or do not attain water quality objectives for bacteria. Thus, changing the objectives is not expected to increase or decrease the number of water bodies that

either meet or violate water quality standards for bacteria under either dry weather or wet weather conditions.

The proposed amendments would not result in changes to waste discharge requirements issued by the Regional Board to publicly owned treatment works (POTWs), which provide treatment of domestic wastewater. Waste discharge requirements, including NPDES permits, issued to POTWs establish performance standards for treatment to assure that the effluent is essentially pathogen free. Such requirements are necessary and will continue to be implemented to assure that public health and beneficial uses are protected.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: Minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would result in a change in the indicators used to identify a violation of water quality standards. They would not result in a waste discharge or otherwise violate water quality standards. As discussed above, the change to the *E. coli* indicator is functionally equivalent to the existing fecal coliform indicator and is not expected to increase or decrease the number of water bodies that either meet or exceed water quality standards for bacteria under either dry weather or wet weather conditions.

Finding of Significance: No significant impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- b) Would the project substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (i.e., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. The revisions would not involve activities that could deplete groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge. The implementation of BMPs to achieve the revised water quality standards has the potential to result in activities that could affect groundwater supplies/recharge. However, these BMPs would not be significantly different, if at all, from those now required to meet current Basin Plan recreation standards.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not involve activities that could deplete groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- c) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on site or off site?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. The revisions would not result in construction or other activities that could substantially alter existing drainage patterns. See IX. Hydrology and Water Quality, a) and b) above.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not involve construction or other activities that could substantially alter existing drainage patterns.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- d) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on site or off site?

See IX. Hydrology and Water Quality c) above

- e) Would the project create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. The revisions would not increase the rate or amount of runoff to the storm drain system or create additional sources of polluted runoff. See IX. Hydrology and Water Quality, a) and b) above.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not increase the rate or amount of runoff to the storm drain system or create additional sources of polluted runoff.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- f) Would the project otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

See IX. **Hydrology and Water Quality a)** above

- g) Would the project place housing within a 100-year floodplain, as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary, Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would not place housing or other structures within a 100-year flood plain.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not place housing or structures within a 100-year flood plain.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- h) Would the project place within a 100-year floodplain structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?

See IX. **Hydrology and Water Quality g)** above.

- i) Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

See IX. **Hydrology and Water Quality g)** above. Additionally, the recreational use designation would temporarily be suspended during certain high flow conditions that present a hazard to public safety.

- j) Would the project contribute to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. The revisions would not contribute to risk of inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria

indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not contribute to risk of inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. LAND USE AND PLANNING: Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion:

- a) Would the project physically divide an established community?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. The revisions would not physically divide an established community.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not physically divide an established community.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- b) Would the project conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the

general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The adoption of the proposed amendments would meet statutory and regulatory water quality standards requirements related to pathogen control and water contact recreation. The amendments would not establish any new uses nor would they otherwise conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation; or any habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. The re-designation of water bodies from REC1 to REC2/“not REC” (neither REC1 nor REC2) and temporary suspensions of recreation standards would not conflict with goals contained in the County or city general plans supporting expansion of recreational opportunities because, as discussed in greater detail in **XV. Recreation**, the waterways to be re-designated have not supported and do not currently allow or support primary contact recreational uses. Additionally, the new designations would not preclude existing or future establishment of REC2 (non-water contact recreation) uses in the vicinity, including aesthetic enjoyment, camping, or boating.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation, or habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- c) Would the project conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

See **X. Land Use and Planning b)** above.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. MINERAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion:

- a) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. The revisions would not involve construction or other activities that could result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not involve construction or other activities that could result in changes to a known mineral resource.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- b) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?

See **XI. Mineral Resources a)** above.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XII. NOISE Would the project result in				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
standards of other agencies?				
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion:

- a) Would the project result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. The revisions would not require construction or other noise generating activities that would result in temporary or permanent increase in noise levels. The implementation and operation of BMPs to achieve the revised recreation standards has the potential to result in increases in noise levels. However, these BMPs would not be significantly different, if at all, from those now required to meet current Basin Plan recreation standards.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not involve construction or other noise generating activities that would result in temporary or permanent increase in noise levels.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- b) Would the project expose persons to or generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise?

See **XII. Noise a)** above.

- c) Would the project result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the action?

See **XII. Noise a)** above.

- d) Would the project result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the action?

See **XI. Noise a)** above.

- e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. The revisions would not involve exposing people to excessive noise levels associated with a public or private airport.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not involve exposing people to excessive noise levels associated with a public or private airport.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- f) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

See XI. Noise e) above.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING -- Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion:

- a) Would the project induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and business) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. The revisions would not induce population growth to the region, either directly or indirectly; nor would they involve displacing housing or people.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not induce population growth to the region, either directly or indirectly.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- b) Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

See **XIII. Population and Housing a)** above.

- c) Would the project displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

See **XIII. Population and Housing a)** above.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion:

- a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or a need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

- i.) Fire Protection

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific

surface waters under certain flow conditions. The revisions would not affect service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any public services, including fire protection, police protection, schools, or parks.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not affect service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any public services, including fire protection, police protection, schools, or parks.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

ii.) Police Protection

See XIV. Public Services a) i.) above.

iii) Schools

See XIV. Public Services a) i.) above.

iv) Parks

See XIV. Public Services a) i.) above.

v) Other Public Facilities

See XIV. Public Services a) i.) above.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. RECREATION				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion:

- a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. The revisions would not induce new growth to the region that could increase the demand for parks or other recreational facilities in the area. Additionally, the revisions would not reduce existing recreational opportunities available to the public. Nor would the revisions cause increased use of existing parks/recreational facilities. Specifically, the proposed changes to the definition of REC1 would increase its consistency with the USEPA definition of "primary contact recreation", which is functionally equivalent to the REC1 beneficial use. It would not eliminate uses that do or could occur currently within water bodies designated as REC1.

The proposed assignment of REC1 waters to Tier A, B, C, and D would be based on existing/anticipated conditions and would not modify recreational activities that currently occur in these waters.

Similarly, the re-designation of water bodies from REC1 and REC2 to REC2 only or "not REC" (neither REC1 nor REC2) would not result in changes in recreation uses if and as they now or may occur. Rather, the purpose of the re-designation of water bodies from REC1 and REC2 to REC2 only or "not REC" is to reflect the nature of the recreational use (if any) that actually occurs or has the potential to occur. Likewise, the temporary suspension of recreation standards merely reflects the lack of recreational activities under high flow conditions that result in unsafe conditions. A UAA has been prepared for each of the water bodies proposed for re-designation in accordance with the Clean Water Act to support these changes. The UAAs include an eligibility analysis to determine if any primary contact recreation has taken place or is currently taking place within the channel. The methodology included on-location physical surveys and digital field observation camera surveys to obtain information regarding existing levels and types of recreational use within the water bodies. The survey results indicate that none of the water bodies are currently used for primary contact recreation and thus, the re-designation would not limit any current recreational uses. Additionally, the UAA effort did not find documented historical primary contact use of these water bodies. The re-designation of these waters, which would be reviewed once every three years in accordance with Basin Plan triennial review requirements, would not preclude changes in conditions such that REC1 and/or REC2 might become attainable in the future such that these uses should be designated.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not induce new growth to the region that could increase the demand for parks or other recreational facilities in the area. Additionally, the proposed amendments would not reduce existing recreational opportunities available to the public

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

See **XV. Recreation a)** above.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC: Would the project:				
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion:

- a) Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan , changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. The revisions would not involve the generation of new traffic that could conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system. The implementation and operation of BMPs to achieve the revised recreation standards has the potential to result in increases in traffic patterns and levels. However, these BMPs would not be significantly different, if at all, from those now required to meet current Basin Plan recreation standards.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not involve the generation of new traffic that could conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- b) Would the project **conflict with** an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?

See **XVI. Transportation/Traffic a)** above.

- c) Would the project **result in** a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan , changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. The revisions would not affect air traffic patterns.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not affect air traffic patterns.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- d) Would the project substantially increase hazards because of a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan , changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. The revisions would not involve new construction or activities that could substantially increase hazards because of a design feature or incompatible uses.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not involve new construction or activities that could substantially increase hazards because of a design feature or incompatible uses.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- e) Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives and beneficial uses for inland waters presented in the Basin Plan. The revisions would not involve new construction or other activities that could result in inadequate emergency access.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not involve new construction or other activities that could result in inadequate emergency access.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- f) Would the project **conflict with** adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. The revisions would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS: Would the project				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion:

- a) Would the project exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters

under certain flow conditions. The revisions would not increase water demand or generate wastewater which could exceed the Regional Board's wastewater treatment requirements. See also IX. Hydrology and Water Quality a).

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not increase water demand or generate wastewater which could exceed the Regional Board's wastewater treatment requirements.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- b) Would the project require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

See **XVII. Utility and Service Systems a)** above. BMPs needed to achieve the proposed recreation standards may include diversion of surface water flows to existing or new wastewater treatment facilities. Existing facilities might need to be expanded to accommodate increased flows. However, these BMPs would not be significantly different, if at all, from those now required to meet current Basin Plan recreation standards. Thus, the proposed amendments would not have any new adverse environmental effect.

- c) Would the project require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. The revisions would not involve construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities. See XVII. Utilities and Service Systems b).

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not involve construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- d) Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

See **XVII. Utility and Service Systems a)** above.

- e) Has the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project determined that it has adequate capacity to serve the action's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

See **XVII. Utility and Service Systems a)** above.

- f) Is the project served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the action's solid waste disposal needs?

No Impact. Basin Plan amendment implementation would not affect solid waste generation or landfill capacities.

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: The proposed amendments would result in revisions to bacteria water quality objectives for inland freshwaters identified in the Basin Plan, changes to beneficial use designations for some of those waters, and temporary suspension of recreation standards for specific surface waters under certain flow conditions. The revisions would not result in solid waste generation or affect landfill capacities.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: The minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods resulting from a change in the bacteria indicator from fecal coliform to *E. coli* would not result in solid waste generation or affect landfill capacities.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- g) Would the project comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

See **XVII. Utility and Service Systems f)** above.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion:

- a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: As discussed in **IV. Biological Resources**, the proposed amendments would not degrade the quality of the environment (including water quality) or adversely affect biological resources directly or indirectly. As discussed in **V. Cultural Resources**, no construction, earthwork, or

removal of existing structures would occur, and thus, examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory would not be eliminated.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: As with the proposed amendments discussed above, the minor revisions to monitoring plans and monitoring methods would not degrade the quality of the environment, adversely affect biological resources, or involve construction or other activities that could eliminate examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future actions.)

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: As discussed throughout this section, the proposed amendments would not have significant adverse effects on the environment, and thus, would not cause or add to a cumulative impact.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: As discussed throughout this section, the reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance would not have significant adverse effects on the environment, and thus, would not cause or add to a cumulative impact.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

- c. Does the project have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Proposed Basin Plan Amendments: As discussed throughout this section, the proposed amendments would not have significant adverse effects on the environment, and thus, would not cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance: As discussed throughout this section, the reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance would not have significant adverse effects on the environment, and thus, would not cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

Finding of Significance: No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is necessary.

Section 5

Alternatives

Pursuant to the State Water Board's regulations for implementing CEQA (CCR title 23, sec. 3777[a]), this environmental review must include an analysis of reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Project. The intent is to consider whether there are reasonable alternatives that would fulfill the underlying purpose of the Proposed Project which involves amendments to the Basin Plan to also achieve and protect water quality standards, but that would minimize or eliminate the potential adverse environmental effects of the Proposed Project. Further pursuant to CEQA Section 15187, this environmental review must also include an analysis of reasonable foreseeable alternative means of compliance with the rule or regulation which would avoid or eliminate the identified impacts.

As described in the discussion of potential Environmental Impacts (Section 3), there are no potential adverse environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Project or reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance. As there are no potential environmental impacts which could be reduced by an alternative to the Proposed Project or alternative means of compliance with the Proposed Project, the only alternative addressed herein is the No Project Alternative.

5.1 No Project Alternative

Under the "No Project" Alternative, the Regional Board would not adopt the proposed revisions to the bacteria water quality objectives and revisions related to beneficial uses and implementation strategies; the Basin Plan would remain unchanged. Therefore, fecal coliform would continue to be the bacteria indicator and the lack of conformance with USEPA recommendations would continue.

Additionally, the need for all freshwater streams to meet REC1 standards during high flow conditions would continue. Given the large challenges and costs that would be associated with reducing bacterial indicators and the associated potential pathogens under large storm event flows, it may be economically infeasible for local agencies to implement actions to try and attain these standards under all flow conditions. Expending resources to address standards compliance under all flow conditions could delay expenditures to address compliance when and where most needed, i.e., when and where recreational use occurs.

The water bodies proposed for re-designation as REC2 or "not REC" (neither REC1 nor REC2) would remain REC1. Implementation of additional treatment controls or BMPs would be required for those water bodies to attain REC1 standards throughout the entire reach. This would divert funds and efforts for establishment of BMPs at other locations which may yield greater benefits (i.e., where recreational uses are currently occurring.)

Section 6

References

California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sec. 15000 et seq.

California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Sec. 3775-3782.

California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Sec. 13000 et seq.

Public Resources Code Sec. 21000 et seq.

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board. Proposed Revisions to Santa Ana Region's Basin Plan for Recreational Use Classifications and Related Water Quality Objectives. October 2007.

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board. Summary - Proposed Amendments related to Recreational Standards for Inland Fresh Waters for the Santa Ana Region. February 2010.

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board. Water Quality Control Plan - Santa Ana River Basin. 1995 (updated 2008).

Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority. Use Attainability Analysis Technical Report for Cucamonga Creek (Draft). Prepared by CDM. April 2010.

Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority. Use Attainability Analysis Technical Report for Greenville Banning Channel (Draft). Prepared by CDM. April 2010.

Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority. Use Attainability Analysis Technical Report for Santa Ana Delhi Channel (Draft). Prepared by CDM. April 2010.

Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority. Use Attainability Analysis Technical Report for Temescal Creek (Draft). Prepared by CDM. April 2010.

State Water Resources Control Board. Resolution No. 68-16, "Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California". 1968.