

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Naomi Feger)
MEETING DATE: July 8, 2009

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: **Triennial Review of the San Francisco Bay Basin Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan)** - Adoption of Resolution and Prioritized List of Basin Plan Issues

CHRONOLOGY: November 2004 - Triennial Review Resolution Adopted

DISCUSSION: This item is for the Board to consider adoption of a Resolution and Prioritized List of Basin Plan Issues to be addressed by the preparation of amendments to the Basin Plan. This package includes the Tentative Resolution and attached proposed prioritized list of Basin Plan issues (Appendix A), the supporting Triennial Review Staff Report (Appendix B), written comment letters received (Appendix C) and our response to those comments (Appendix D).

The Basin Plan is the master policy document for the Water Board, establishing water quality standards for the San Francisco Bay Region and describing permits, policies, monitoring, and other programs designed to meet the standards. The Triennial Review is conducted to meet State and federal requirements of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and federal Clean Water Act, respectively. The Triennial Review focuses the Basin Plan work plan for the next three years by prioritizing issues for Basin Plan amendment development. The Triennial Review provides the opportunity to identify portions of the Basin Plan that need to be updated or modified to improve the efficiency and environmental protection associated with permitting and other programs.

We began the Triennial Review process in late 2007, reviewing the status of the list of Basin Planning issues identified during the 2004 Triennial Review, and identifying new issues for consideration. In 2008, we produced a "Brief Issue Descriptions" paper, describing 16 potential priority projects, and asked stakeholders for their input. A stakeholder workshop was held in May 2008. Stakeholders provided input towards developing and refining 25 proposed Basin Plan issues and the associated ranking criteria scores for prioritizing the issues. In this Region, we only have two funded positions for Basin Planning. Consequently, the priorities presented in the Tentative Resolution and supporting staff report reflect our limited resources available to complete Basin Planning projects.

- Based on the Triennial Review process, the top priority Basin Plan issues include:
1. Complete Stream and Wetlands Protection Policy
 2. Complete Update of Significant Water Bodies and their Beneficial Uses (Update Maps)
 3. Adopt U.S. EPA BEACH Act Marine Recreational Contact Water Quality Criteria as Objectives
 4. Designate Beneficial Uses for Hayward Marsh
 5. Develop Bioassessment Objectives Implementation Plan
 6. Evaluate the Shellfish Harvesting Beneficial Use
 7. Develop Numeric Nutrient Water Quality Objectives
 8. Describe Environmental Screening Level (ESL) Tiered Decision Process
 9. Update based on the State Water Board's Water Recycling Policy

The Tentative Resolution and supporting staff report were circulated to interested parties on April 6, 2009. During the public review period that closed on May 7, 2009, we received four comment letters (Appendix C). Those letters included comments from San Francisco Public Utility Commission, Union Sanitary District, U. S. EPA, and the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Zone 7 Water Agency. We have responded to all of the issues raised by the public, which were generally supportive of this planning process (Appendix D). Some of the comments concerned details of specific Basin Planning projects, rather than the Triennial Review process. Others identified additional projects for consideration during the review; all projects have been considered during this Triennial Review. We appreciate all the interest and input from stakeholders and intend on addressing the stakeholders' project-specific concerns as these Basin Plan amendments are developed.

**RECOMMEN-
DATION:**

Adopt the Tentative Resolution and List of Prioritized Basin Plan Issues

APPENDICES:

- A. Tentative Resolution and List of Prioritized Basin Plan Issues
- B. Triennial Review Staff Report
- C. Comment Letters, Received by May 7, 2009
- D. Response to Comments