



State Water Resources Control Board

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REVISED Version
Corrects numbers in 4th paragraph

STATE WATER BOARD RELEASES DRAFT LIST OF IMPAIRED WATER BODIES, INVITES COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

SACRAMENTO – The State Water Board has released a draft list of California streams, rivers and lakes that are being proposed to be listed as “impaired” under the rules of the federal Clean Water Act. The public is invited to comment on any of the proposed listings. (“Impaired” usually means there are contaminants or other factors such as unnatural temperatures that affect the quality of the water body.)

The Water Board compiled the list as part of its ongoing commitment to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California’s water resources. The list is required by Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. The Act also requires the state to report to US EPA on surface water quality.

The State Water Board’s Draft 2010 Integrated Report contains both the proposed 303(d) list and the report on the quality of surface waters in California (required by Section 305(b) of the Act). The State Water Board’s Draft 2010 Integrated Report compiles the nine Regional Water Boards’ Integrated Reports and incorporates State Water Board’s staff recommendations.

The new draft list proposes adding 1,464 listings and removing 195 from the previous list (2006). (An addition may represent a specific pollutant newly found in a single body of water or stream/river section and **not an additional** body of water. Thus, if a specific lake had previously been listed for contaminant “A” and contaminant “B” were newly found in that lake, that fact would be reflected with an added listing this year.) More data are available this year than for previous lists. The additional listings do not necessarily reflect further degradation of water quality since the previous listing cycle but are more likely due to the availability of more data. Three hundred fifty (350) water bodies are listed for the first time for one or more pollutants.

More data are available this year than in previous listings. Water bodies may have been added to the list because of newly available data, not because of degradation to water quality since the last list, compiled in 2006. Some water bodies may have removed from the 2006 list because of a lack of specific data or because of more recent data.

States are required to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for listed water bodies. TMDLs are cleanup plans based on the maximum load of a pollutant that can be discharged into the water body without exceeding water quality standards.

The State Water Board is scheduled to hear public comments on, and consider adoption of, the proposed staff recommendations on June 15, 2010. The draft list is posted on the State Water Board's Web site at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtml. All comments on the proposed changes to the draft list must be submitted by email, mail, or fax, and postmarked no later than 12:00 noon, May 28, 2010.