

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
NOVEMBER 15, 2016**

ITEM 2

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL COASTAL BASIN (BASIN PLAN) TO REVISE BENEFICIAL USE DESIGNATIONS AND TO MAKE EDITORIAL CHANGES

DISCUSSION

The Central Coast Water Board adopted this amendment of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan) on July 28, 2016, as [Resolution No. 2016-0030](#). This amendment improves the clarity and usefulness of the Basin Plan by revising designated beneficial uses for selected waterbodies in Table 2-1 of the Basin Plan. This amendment revises beneficial uses for ten specific inland surface waterbodies within six hydrologic units of the Central Coastal Basin. In addition, this amendment makes numerous non-substantive editorial changes to Basin Plan language.

The basis for designating beneficial uses in this amendment includes the Clean Water Act national goal that, “wherever attainable...water quality which provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and provides for recreation in and on the water be achieved...” Other beneficial uses, such as commercial and sport fishing, preservation of rare and endangered species, and fish migration are designated based on information available in the literature and information submitted by stakeholders and interested parties. A detailed discussion of each proposed amendment is provided in the project report.

This amendment completes three of nine high priority issues identified in the 2014 Triennial Review of the Basin Plan.

The non-substantive amendments include revisions to maps and figures, correction of historical transcription errors, and correction of regulatory citations and outdated language. These non-substantive changes will not have a regulatory effect.

This Basin Plan amendment will ensure that staff and stakeholders have a common understanding of foundational information in the Basin Plan in relation to the application and implementation of Basin Plan policies and water quality standards. This amendment will improve effectiveness of water quality protection due to increased clarity and accuracy of language in the Basin Plan, updated beneficial use designations, improved terminology consistency, and updated names and locations of water bodies.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board approve an amendment of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin to improve its clarity and usefulness by revising designated beneficial uses for selected waterbodies and by making several non-substantive editorial changes?

FISCAL IMPACT

Central Coast Water Board and State Water Board staff work associated with or resulting from this action will be addressed with existing and future budgeted resources.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

Yes; approval of this resolution will amend the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin, and complete three triennial review priority issues.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board:

1. Approve the amendment to the Basin Plan adopted under Central Coast Water Board Resolution No. R3-2016-0030.
2. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to submit the amendment adopted under Central Coast Water Board Resolution No. R3-2016-0030 as approved, and the administrative record for this action, to the California Office of Administrative Law and to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goals 4 and 5 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to comprehensively address water quality protection in water quality planning processes and to help improve transparency. In particular, approval of this item will assist in fulfilling Objective 4.2 to update Basin Plans so that they readily convey key elements, including beneficial uses.

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STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2016-

APPROVING AN AMENDMENT OF THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL COASTAL BASIN TO REVISE BENEFICIAL USE DESIGNATIONS AND TO MAKE EDITORIAL CHANGES

WHEREAS:

1. On July 28, 2016, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) adopted [Resolution No. R3-2016-0030](#) amending the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan) to revise beneficial use designations and to make editorial changes.
2. The Central Coast Water Board found that the analysis contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) "[Substitute Environmental Documents](#)" for the proposed Basin Plan amendment, including the CEQA checklist, the final staff report entitled "Amending the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin to Revise Beneficial Use Designations and to Make Editorial Changes – Project Report," and the responses to comments complies with the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) regulations for the implementation of CEQA, as set forth in the California Code of Regulations, Title 23, section 3775 through 3781. The State Water Board has reviewed the Substitute Environmental Documents for the Basin Plan amendment and concurs with the Central Coast Water Board's findings and determinations.
3. The Central Coast Water Board also adopted the Basin Plan amendment pursuant to the "necessity" standard of the Administrative Procedures Act, Government Code section 11353, subdivision (b).
4. The Central Coast Water Board found the Basin Plan amendment is consistent with the Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California (State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16) and the federal Antidegradation Policy (40 Code of Federal Regulations 131.12) in that it does not allow degradation of water quality, but requires restoration of water quality and attainment of water quality standards.
5. The State Water Board finds that the Basin Plan amendment is in conformance with Water Code section 13240, which specifies that regional water quality control boards may periodically review and revise Water Quality Control Plans.
6. A Basin Plan amendment does not become effective until approved by the State Water Board and until the regulatory provisions are approved by California Office of Administrative Law. The amendment must also receive approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

D R A F T

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Approves the amendment to the Basin Plan adopted under Central Coast Water Board Resolution No. R3-2016-0030.
2. Authorizes the Executive Director or designee to submit the amendment adopted under Central Coast Water Board Resolution No. R3-2016-0030 as approved, and the administrative record for this action to the California Office of Administrative Law and to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Clerk to the Board does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on November 15, 2016.

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board