

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGIONAL WATER BOARD
JUNE 2, 2020**

ITEM 5

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY BASIN (BASIN PLAN) TO ESTABLISH A TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD FOR BACTERIA IN THE PETALUMA RIVER WATERSHED

DISCUSSION

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board adopted a Basin Plan amendment on November 13, 2019, with [Resolution No. R2-2019-0030](#). The amendment establishes a concentration-based Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for bacteria with targets that are equivalent to the applicable water quality objectives for fecal indicator bacteria. TMDL allocations and the program of implementation are designed to ensure attainment of the bacteria water quality objectives and protect recreational beneficial uses.

The entire Petaluma River main stem, including the tidal portion at the mouth, is listed as impaired by bacteria found at levels consistently above water quality objectives for water contact recreation (e.g., swimming, wading, and kayaking). The TMDL would require measures to reduce discharges of bacteria from controllable sources to meet water quality objectives in the Petaluma River and its tributaries (the Petaluma River Watershed).

Controllable sources of bacteria in the Petaluma River Watershed include a wastewater treatment plant, sanitary sewer collection systems, private sewer laterals, onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS), vessel marinas, homeless encampments, confined animals facilities (e.g., cow dairies, commercial horse facilities), grazing lands (e.g., cattle and sheep ranches), domestic pet waste, and municipal and Caltrans stormwater runoff.

The proposed Basin Plan amendment would establish the following:

- A TMDL for bacteria with numeric targets and load and wasteload allocations, which include a margin of safety and account for the need for seasonal variations, for all sources to protect the water contact recreational uses of the Petaluma River Watershed.
- A program of implementation with actions to achieve the TMDL, a time schedule for the actions to be taken, and monitoring to evaluate compliance and progress in meeting the numeric targets.

The Basin Plan amendment would require dischargers to act to reduce discharges of bacteria to the Petaluma River Watershed. It includes new requirements related to sanitary sewer system inspections and repairs; OWTS inspection and repairs by homeowners; vessel waste management in marinas; homeless encampments; grazing

lands waste management; enhanced municipal stormwater best management practices; and monitoring. The proposed implementation plan also builds on existing local efforts and Regional Water Board regulatory programs and requirements, such as eliminating sanitary sewer overflows and reducing bacteria discharges from dairy confined animal facilities, managing municipal stormwater systems, and controlling bacteria discharges from a wastewater treatment plant. The Basin Plan amendment directs the Regional Water Board staff to create a program to address bacteria sources from grazing cattle and sheep in the Petaluma River Watershed, to enroll commercial horse confined animal facilities into the regional confined animal facility program, and to monitor and assess improvement in water quality resulting from these activities. The Regional Water Board's holistic monitoring of the Petaluma River Watershed will begin five years after the TMDL effective date.

The Regional Water Board publicly noticed and distributed the proposed Basin Plan amendment and supporting draft Staff Report in accordance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations. The Regional Water Board members considered these documents, as well as public comments, and staff's responses to comments, and concluded that the Basin Plan amendment will not have a significant impact on the environment and approved the amendment.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board approve an amendment to the San Francisco Bay Water Board's Basin Plan to establish a TMDL for bacteria for The Petaluma River Watershed?

FISCAL IMPACT

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board staff work associated with or resulting from this action will be addressed with existing and future budgeted resources.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

Adoption of this Resolution will approve the amendment of the San Francisco Bay Basin Plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board:

1. Approve the amendment to the San Francisco Bay Basin Plan adopted by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board Resolution No. R2-2019-0030.
2. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to submit the amendment as approved and the administrative record for this action to the Office of Administrative Law for approval and the amendment to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.