

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGIONAL WATER BOARD
JULY 20, 2021**

ITEM 4

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY BASIN TO ESTABLISH A TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) FOR BACTERIA AT THE BEACHES IN PILLAR POINT HARBOR AND VENICE BEACH, AND TO INCORPORATE BACTERIA OBJECTIVES INTO THE BASIN PLAN.

DISCUSSION

The San Francisco Bay Regional Board adopted a Basin Plan amendment on February 10, 2021, with [Resolution No. R2-2021-0002](#). The amendment establishes a TMDL with targets that are equivalent to the numeric water quality objectives for *Enterococcus*. TMDL allocations and the program of implementation are designed to support and protect the beaches' designated beneficial use of water contact recreation.

Controllable sources of bacteria to the beaches in Pillar Point Harbor and Venice Beach include onsite wastewater treatment systems, sanitary sewer overflows, sewer collection systems, the Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside wastewater treatment plant, Pillar Point Harbor and marina operations, private sewer laterals, municipal stormwater, including waste from pets, runoff from a landfill, Caltrans stormwater runoff, and horse boarding facilities and grazing.

The proposed Basin Plan amendment establishes the following:

- A bacteria TMDL with numeric targets to protect water contact recreational uses at the beaches in Pillar Point Harbor and Venice Beach;
- Load and wasteload allocations for all controllable sources of bacteria to the beaches; and
- A plan to implement the TMDL and monitor water quality to evaluate progress in meeting the numeric targets.

The implementation relies on regulatory programs and actions that are already required to control bacteria discharges from the wastewater treatment plant, eliminate sanitary sewer overflows, reduce bacteria discharges from confined animal facilities, and minimize municipal stormwater pollution. The TMDL also includes additional requirements for onsite septic systems inspection and repairs by homeowners; vessel waste management in the harbor; and enhanced municipal stormwater best management practices. The implementation plan employs a phased approach to reduce bacteria loads from sanitary sewer collection systems, vessels and amenities in Pillar

Point Harbor, and municipal stormwater runoff. If the TMDL is not achieved in Phase 1, the parties must implement additional bacteria controls in Phase 2 and conduct more advanced monitoring. The TMDL targets are required to be achieved no later than 15 years after the TMDL effective date.

The TMDL calls for assessment of beach water quality data and for supplemental monitoring to improve understanding of remaining bacteria sources, especially if initial control measures do not achieve the TMDL.

Additionally, the amendment updates the Basin Plan to reflect statewide bacteria objectives adopted by the State Water Board on August 8, 2018 as [Resolution No. 2018-0038](#), Part 3 of the Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California – Bacteria Provisions and a Water Quality Standards Variance Policy and an Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California – Bacteria Provisions and a Water Quality Standards Variance Policy. These numeric objectives are already effective statewide and supersede the objectives listed in the San Francisco Bay Basin Plan, except for site-specific objectives and narrative water quality objectives. Furthermore, the Basin Plan amendment makes non-regulatory administrative changes to the Basin Plan Chapters 3, 4 and 5 to reflect statewide bacteria objectives for water contact recreation, and to make editorial changes to clarify or remove outdated information.

The San Francisco Bay Regional Board publicly noticed and distributed for public review and comment the proposed Basin Plan amendment and supporting 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 Basin Plan to establish a TMDL for bacteria at the beaches in Pillar Point Harbor and Venice Beach and to update the bacteria water quality objectives?

FISCAL IMPACT

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

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

Approval of this resolution will amend the San Francisco Bay Water Board's Basin Plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board:

1. Approve the amendment to the Basin Plan adopted under the San Francisco Bay Regional Board Resolution No. R2-2021-0002.
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.