

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 7-8, 2017**

Prepared October 31, 2017

**ITEM NUMBER: 12**

**SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2017  
TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR  
THE CENTRAL COASTAL BASIN**

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**SUMMARY**

Staff conducted the 2017 “Triennial Review” of the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin* (Basin Plan) to identify and prioritize important water quality, watershed protection, and regulation issues that staff may later address through Basin Plan amendments. This item is the Central Coast Water Board’s opportunity to prioritize Basin Plan amendments and direct staff to implement the most important amendments.

Staff’s *Triennial Review Report* is attached (Attachment 1). The *Triennial Review Report* describes the Triennial Review process, discusses the issues considered, responds to comments, and proposes a prioritized ranking of selected issues to address. Staff recommends prioritizing 19 of the 49 identified Triennial Review issues. Staff also recommends that Issue 46: Watershed and Integrated Water Resource Protection, be the Water Board’s top priority. This issue topic is described on pages 47-48 of the *Triennial Review Report*. The purpose of this issue topic would be to incorporate sustainable water resource management principles and expectations into the Basin Plan.

Staff’s recommendation is formalized in proposed Resolution No. R3-2017-0119 (Attachment 2). Staff recommends adoption of Resolution R3-2017-0119.

**DISCUSSION**

The Triennial Review is required by state and federal law. Section 303(c) of the federal Clean Water Act requires water quality standards be reviewed and revised, if appropriate, on a triennial basis. Section 13240 of the California Water Code requires Water Boards to periodically review their basin plans and consider revisions. Additionally, the Triennial Review process affirms the general adequacy of the Basin Plan in areas not recommended for revision.

Staff initiated the review by distributing a *Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment* and a *Brief Issue Descriptions* document at the beginning of the 45-day public comment period from August 28, 2017 to October 12, 2017. Staff held a public workshop on September 19, 2017; no members of the public attended the public workshop. We received five public comment letters (see Comments discussion below).

After consideration of public comments from interested persons, staff finalized the attached *Triennial Review Report*. The report includes a detailed description of 49 issues, a summary of public comments and staff responses, and a priority evaluation score for each issue. The following is a list of the issues staff evaluated for this Triennial Review. Staff only lists the issues here; please see the attached *Triennial Review Report* for a discussion of the issues, responses to comments, and issue ranking. The highlighted issues below are staff's recommended priorities for this Triennial Review and follow up.

Introduction (Chapter 1) Related Issues:

Issue 1: Update Population Information (editorial)

Beneficial Use (Chapter 2) Related Issues:

Issue 2: Clarify Uses for Waterbodies Not Specifically Named

Issue 3: Clarify Uses for Flood Control Conveyances

Issue 4: Establish a Tributary Rule

Issue 5: Modify Groundwater Recharge Use Definition

Issue 6: Designate Surface Waters that Recharge Groundwater

Issue 7: Designate Aquatic Life Uses For Groundwater

Issue 8: Remove Beneficial Uses For Selected Waterbodies

Issue 9: Add RARE Uses for Selected Waterbodies

Issue 10: Add MUN Use for Coastal Waters

Issue 11: Add Aquatic Life Uses for Steelhead

Issue 12: Define and Designate Tribal Uses

Issue 13: Update Groundwater Basin Boundary Map and Table (editorial)

Water Quality Objectives (Chapter 3) Related Issues

Issue 14: Establish Turbidity WQOs for Aquatic Life Protection

Issue 15: Revise Dissolved Oxygen WQOs for Aquatic Life Protection

Issue 16: Establish Temperature WQOs for Aquatic Life Protection

Issue 17: Establish Nitrate WQOs for Aquatic Life Protection

Issue 18: Establish Additive Toxicity WQOs for Aquatic Life Protection

Issue 19: Revise WQOs for Site-specific Surface Waters in Table 3-5

Issue 20: Revise WQOs for Site-specific Groundwaters in Table 3-6

Issue 21: Revise WQOs to be as Protective as Federal Criteria

Issue 22: Develop Water Flow Objectives

Issue 23: Revise Pesticides Objective

Issue 24: Update Agricultural Supply WQOs in Table 3-1

Issue 25: Incorporate Secondary Drinking Water Standards as WQO's

Issue 26: Revise Aquatic Life Mercury Objective (editorial)

Issue 27: Correct Table 3-3 Header (editorial)

Implementation (Chapter 4) Related Issues

Issue 28: Establish Prohibitions on Unpermitted Discharges

Issue 29: Edit the Land Disturbance Prohibition

Issue 30: Revise Sections Now Regulated by the Ag Order (editorial)

Issue 31: Correct Outdated References Title 22 Hazardous Wastes (editorial)

Issue 32: Revise Bay Protection and Toxic Cleanup Program Section (editorial)

Issue 33: Revise List and Map of Active Military Installations (editorial)

Issue 34: Add Statewide Containment Zone Policy (editorial)

Issue 35: Update Section 4.10 TMDL List (editorial)

Issue 48 (**new**): Update Selected Sections in Chapter Four (editorial)

## Plans and Policies (Chapter 5) Related Issues

- Issue 36: Address Discharge Prohibitions for Inland Waters
- Issue 37: Incorporate State Implementation Policy and CA Toxics Rule (editorial)
- Issue 38: Incorporate Newer Statewide Policies (editorial)
- Issue 39: Incorporate Statewide Nonpoint Source Policies (editorial)
- Issue 40: Add Monterey Bay Prohibition Zone Map (editorial)
- Issue 41: Delete San Lorenzo Valley Certification of 1986 (editorial)
- Issue 42: Consolidate Livestock Waste Prohibitions (editorial)
- Issue 43: Update Categorical Discharge Waiver Language (editorial)
- Issue 44: Delete Unnecessary Section 5.6.6 and Appendix A-25 (editorial)
- Issue 49 (**new**)\*: Update the Seawater Intrusion Section (editorial)

## Monitoring and Assessment (Chapter 6) Related Issues

- Issue 45: Update Monitoring and Assessment Chapter (editorial)

## Issues Related to All Basin Plan Chapters

- Issue 46: Watershed and Integrated Water Resource Protection
- Issue 47: Ocean Protection

\*Issues 48 and 49 are new following the public comment period, and therefore do not appear in numeric order in the list above or in the *Triennial Review Report*.

Staff evaluated the issues by assigning a numeric score based on the following ranking criteria topics: vision alignment, water quality standards improvement, effectiveness, and public interest. The *Triennial Review Report* concludes with staff's recommended list of priority issues to pursue as Basin Plan amendments. The Central Coast Water Board may approve or revise the list. See Table 4, pages 54-56, of the *Triennial Review Report* for staff's prioritized list of issues to pursue.

Staff also recommends that Issue 46: Watershed and Integrated Water Resource Protection, be the Central Coast Water Board's top priority. The following description is taken from pages 47 and 48 of the attached *Triennial Review Report*:

*The Central Coast Region's water resources are affected by various land uses, land development practices, waste discharges, water usage, and climate change. Climate change affects all aspects of water management and underscores the critical need for agencies to develop and implement sustainable water resource management policy. Time is of the essence, especially for the Central Coast, which relies extensively on groundwater for drinking water supplies. The current Basin Plan is not consistent with various laws and policies that support sustainable water management, such as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and the State Water Board policy regarding recycling, respectively. Water quality and water supply are intrinsically connected, and cannot be effectively managed as separate issues. For this Basin Plan amendment, staff will develop sustainable water management principles consistent with state law and State Water Board policy, and define implementation actions consistent with these principles and the Central Coast Water Board's authority.*

*As examples of principles, the Local Government Commission has developed [Water Principles](#) and [Climate Change Principles](#) that overlap with State Water Board policies and directives. Staff will consider these and other examples in developing this Basin*

*Plan amendment.*

*Moreover, these issues are beginning to be addressed through integrated water management efforts by local agencies, such as the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Greater Los Angeles County, Sonoma County Water Agency and others. Staff will review and consider these types of efforts.*

*Staff will build on the work they have already done to identify and prioritize factors affecting those watershed processes (e.g., base flow in streams, groundwater recharge, aquatic habitat) that are critical to water quality and water supply, and expand the effort to address additional factors that are critical to sustainable water resource management (e.g., recycling, groundwater recharge protection, stormwater capture and re-use, zoning/ordinances, etc.). Some Water Board programs, such as the stormwater program, have already made significant advancements in this area, and staff will use these advancements to develop this Basin Plan amendment.*

If the Water Board approves staff's priority ranking and adopts Resolution No. R3-2017-0119 (Attachment 2), the Executive Officer will consider all available staff resources and other Water Board priorities in determining a schedule to implement the Board's direction. Currently, we have approximately 0.5 person years (PYs) allocated to Basin Plan amendment work, which significantly limits our ability to develop comprehensive Basin Plan amendments. However, we are also undergoing a significant expansion in staff resources, which may provide additional resources for this work. Our current expansion, and subsequent restructuring, should be largely complete by June 2018, at which time the Executive Officer will have a better understanding of available resources and our ability to schedule Basin Plan amendments per the Board's direction on this Triennial Review.

## **COMMENTS**

Comments and staff responses are included in the attached *Triennial Review Report*. Please see Table 2, page 7 of the *Triennial Review Report* for a list of the commenters, the issues commented on, and the page numbers for the comments and staff's responses.

Full text of the comment letters are available at the Basin Planning Triennial Review website: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/publications\\_forms/publications/basin\\_plan/triennial\\_review/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/publications_forms/publications/basin_plan/triennial_review/)

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt draft Resolution No. R3-2017-0119 (Attachment 2) completing the 2017 Triennial Review process. Adoption of the resolution concludes the Triennial Review, approves a priority list of issues to be pursued as future Basin Plan amendments, and affirms the general adequacy of the Basin Plan in areas not under revision.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Triennial Review Report, December 2017
2. Draft Resolution No. R3-2017-0119 with the 2017 Triennial Review Priority List