Overview

Water Quality Control Plans or “Basin Plans” provide the foundation for all Central Valley Water Board regulatory actions. Basin Plans identify beneficial uses of surface and ground waters, water quality objectives to protect those uses, implementation actions to achieve objectives, and a monitoring and surveillance program to insure that implementation actions are effective. All actions by the Board must be compliant with the Basin Plans. The Central Valley Water Board has two Basin Plans: one for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins and one for the Tulare Lake Basin.

A public review process is conducted every three years (Triennial Review) to identify and prioritize actions needed to address water quality concerns and maintain effectiveness of the Basin Plans. Upon Board approval of the Triennial Review work plan, staff investigates water quality issues and proposes amendments to the Basin Plans for Board consideration. Amendments may range from developing site specific water quality objectives for a single constituent such as copper, to basin-wide control programs for a suite of potential pollutants such as pyrethroids, to policy recommendations and strategies for addressing emerging contaminants and/or climate change.

Staff resources for Basin Planning activities are leveraged between Waste Discharge Permit Fees (20.1-staff) and federal USEPA funding (3.5-staff) for a total of 23.6 PYs. The combined resources are utilized to implement the Triennial Review Work Plan, which for FY 2015-2016 includes activities specifically related to Basin Planning; the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program; the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) initiative; and Delta activities. Most Planning staff work out of the Rancho Cordova office. Only 3.1 of the total 23.6 PYs are committed to Basin Planning work. The remaining 20.5 PY are committed to working in the other planning activities identified above and discussed on separate Fact Sheets.

Information on the TMDL Program, the CV-SALTS initiative, and Delta Activities are in separate Fact Sheets. The remainder of this Fact Sheet focuses on general Basin Planning activities.

Goals

The goal of the Basin Planning Program is to establish and update regulatory frameworks and programs that will preserve and enhance water quality and protect beneficial uses of water for the maximum benefit of the people of California. The Triennial Review process insures that the Basin Plans address public concerns and continue to be effective at meeting program goals in a reasonable and transparent manner.
**Accomplishments: FY 2015/16**

- Completed Edits/Updates to both Basin Plans.
- Completed the Groundwater Strategy Update to the Board
- Both Variance/Exception and MUN POTW Basin Plan Amendments approved
- ECM process to develop Administrative Records completed with training material and references
- Basin Planning training and references in development; portions tested
- New: Added coordination with the NPDES Program to initiate amendment to the Basin Plans to evaluate water quality objectives for ammonia

**Performance Targets for FY 2015/2016**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Description</th>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>Targets Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basin Plan Amendments Adopted</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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The performance target for FY 2015-16 was to adopt an Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins for the Control of Pyrethroid Pesticide Discharges. This amendment was delayed as additional data became available that necessitated expanded public workshops to discuss analytical methodologies, potential objective development and implementation alternatives.