

CEQA Scoping Meeting

Basin Plan Amendments
for pH and Turbidity

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Presentation Outline

- What is the Basin Plan?
- What is the process and where are we?
- What are we looking for in terms of “Scoping”?
- Summary of information
- Alternatives
- Summary of Draft Recommendations

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**Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento
River and San Joaquin River Basins**

- Federal Clean Water Act
 - Water Quality Standards
- California Water Code (Porter Cologne)
 - Beneficial Uses
 - Water Quality Objectives
 - Implementation Program including a Monitoring Program

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Where are we in this Process?

Milestone	Estimated Date
Studies	2001 to 2004
CEQA Scoping Meeting	19 August 2004
Peer Review	October – December 2004
Public Comment Period & Workshops	2005
Regional Board Hearing and Adoption	January 2006
State Board Hearing and Approval	April 2006
Office of Administrative Law Approval	July 2006
US Environmental Protection Agency Approval	December 2006

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Scoping

Looking for comments on the range of

- actions
- alternatives
- mitigation measures
- significant effects

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Current Water Quality Objective for pH

“The pH shall not be depressed below 6.5 nor raised above 8.5. Changes in normal ambient pH levels shall not exceed 0.5 in fresh waters with designated COLD or WARM beneficial uses. In determining compliance with the water quality objective for pH, appropriate averaging periods may be applied provided that beneficial uses will be fully protected.”

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Proposed pH Amendment

The pH shall not be depressed below 6.5 nor raised above 8.5.

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Current Water Quality Objective for Turbidity

“...Increases in turbidity attributable to controllable water quality factors shall not exceed the following limits:

- *Where natural turbidity is between 0 and 5 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTUs), increases shall not exceed 1 NTU.*
- *Where natural turbidity is between 5 and 50...”*

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Proposed Turbidity Amendment

- Where natural turbidity is less than 1 Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU), discharges shall not cause receiving water turbidity to exceed 2 NTUs.
- Where natural turbidity is between 1 and 5 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 1 NTU.

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Beneficial Uses Considered for pH and Turbidity Amendments

- Municipal
- Agriculture
- Industrial Process
- Industrial Service
- Contact Recreation
- Non-contact Recreation
- Warm Water Habitat
- Cold Water Habitat
- Aquatic Migration
- Spawning
- Wildlife Habitat
- Navigation

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Beneficial Uses Potentially Affected by pH Changes

Aquatic Life Beneficial Uses

- Warm Water Habitat
- Cold Water Habitat
- Aquatic Migration
- Spawning

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Scientific Justification for pH Amendment

- Hundreds of pH/aquatic life studies
- Maintain pH between 6.5 and 9.0
- Protective of aquatic life beneficial uses
- USEPA criterion since 1976
- No requirement to limit pH change to 0.5
- No need for averaging period

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Proposed pH Amendment

Proposed pH water quality objective:

- *“The pH shall not be depressed below 6.5 nor raised above 8.5.”*
- Fully protective of aquatic life and other beneficial uses
- Complies with antidegradation policies

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Beneficial Uses Sensitive to Low Turbidity

- Non-Contact Recreation - Aesthetics
- Aquatic Life Beneficial Uses
 - Warm Water Habitat
 - Cold Water Habitat
 - Aquatic Migration
 - Spawning

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Justification for Turbidity Amendment

- Review of scientific studies and current criteria
- When natural turbidity between 0-5 NTU
 - Limiting turbidity change to 1 NTU is not necessary to protect aquatic life
 - Human eye not able to detect the difference between 1 and 2 NTUs

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Proposed Turbidity Amendment

- Proposed turbidity water quality objective:
- When natural turbidity is 0-1 NTU
 - Discharge shall not cause receiving water turbidity over 2 NTU
- When natural turbidity is 1-5 NTUs
 - Increase in turbidity shall not exceed 1 NTU
- Fully protective of aesthetic, aquatic life, and other beneficial uses
- Complies with antidegradation policies

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Preliminary Alternatives

1. No Action (No Basin Plan Amendments)
 - New treatment facilities with no discharge
 - Continued discharge
 - Additional Treatment Facilities
 - Effluent Reuse
 - Use of Averaging Periods for compliance
2. Adopt Basin Plan Amendments as proposed

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No Action/No Basin Plan Amendments

- Additional Costs
 - New treatment facilities with no discharge
 - Continued Discharge
 - Additional Treatment Facilities
 - Effluent Reuse
 - Use of Averaging Periods for compliance
- Potential Discharge of additional solids

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Adopt Basin Plan Amendments as Proposed

- Amendments are protective of beneficial uses
- pH amendment is supported by current scientific studies
- pH and turbidity amendments do not violate antidegradation policies
- No additional costs

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Categories

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology & Soils
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Land Use & Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population & Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities & Service Systems

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No Impacts Not Relevant to Beneficial Uses

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology & Soils
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- Hydrology & Water Quality
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Possible Impacts

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology & Soils
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Land Use & Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
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More Information

- http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/available_documents/
- Future Notifications
 - Email Subscription (from website)
 - Snail Mail (Leave name and Address)

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Contacts for Information

Beth Thayer
ThayerE@rb5s.swrcb.ca.gov
(916) 464-4671

Betty Yee
YeeB@rb5s.swrcb.ca.gov
(916) 464-4643

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