Development of a Drinking Water Policy for Surface Waters of the Central Valley

CEQA Scoping Meeting

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Regional Water Board
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Purpose of Meeting

Solicit public input on environmental impacts and alternatives for improving policies for protecting surface water sources of drinking water of the Central Valley
Overview

- Water Quality Control Regulations
- Problem Statement
- Basin Plan Amendment Requirements & Process
- Project Alternatives
- Schedule
- CEQA Checklist
Water Quality Control Regulations

- Clean Water Act
- Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act
- Basin Plan
  - Designate Beneficial Uses
  - Establish Water Quality Objectives
  - Describe Implementation Plan
  - Describe Monitoring & Surveillance Program
Problem Statement

- Project Area
- Existing Regulations
  - Beneficial Uses
  - Water Quality Objectives
- Current Regulatory Framework
- Potential Conflicts
Project Area

- Surface Waters
- Downstream of Major Dams
  - Sacramento River
  - San Joaquin River
  - Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
Beneficial Uses

- Sources of Drinking Water Policy
- Basin Plan Tributary Statement
- Municipal & Domestic Supply (MUN)
Water Quality Objectives

- Narrative
  - Toxicity
  - Chemical Constituents
  - Taste & Odor
  - Nuisance
  - Biostimulatory Substances

- Numeric
  - DPH Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)
  - California Toxics Rule
## Regulatory Framework: Salinity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Unpalatable drinking water, scaling on pipes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source Regs</td>
<td>Numeric WQO for protecting industrial and agricultural uses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tap Regs</td>
<td>Secondary MCLs for TDS, EC, Chloride, &amp; Sulfate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gap</td>
<td>No WQO for drinking water</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Regulatory Framework: Organic Carbon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Disinfection by-products</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source Regs</td>
<td>Narrative WQO for chemical constituents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tap Regs</td>
<td>Water treatment based on source water concentrations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gap</td>
<td>No numeric target or WQO to interpret narrative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Regulatory Framework: Nutrients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Source Regs</th>
<th>Tap Regs</th>
<th>Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Narrative WQOs for biostimulatory substances, nuisance, &amp; taste/odor</td>
<td>Secondary MCLs for odor</td>
<td>No numeric target or WQO to interpret narrative except in TMDLs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Problem**: Contributes to algal blooms
## Regulatory Framework: Pathogens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Cause disease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source Regs</td>
<td>Numeric WQO for protecting recreational uses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tap Regs</td>
<td>Water treatment based on source water concentrations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gap</td>
<td>No WQO for drinking water or for specific pathogens of concern</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Potential Conflicts

- Ecosystem Requires Organic Carbon & Nutrients
- Delta Ecosystem Collapse
Basin Plan Amendments: Requirements & Process

- Gather & Evaluate Scientific Information
- Identify Alternatives
- CEQA Scoping
- Develop Staff Report
- Peer Review
- Public Review
- Regional Water Board Hearing
- State Water Resources Control Board Hearing
- Office of Administrative Law approval
- US EPA approval
Alternative 1a
No Action

- No Additional Regulations
- Potential Water Quality Degradation
- Potential Increased Public Health Risk
- Rely on Treatment to Meet Regulations & Manage Risk
Alternative 1b
No Action - Source Monitoring

- Dischargers Required to Monitor
  - Monitoring & Reporting Requirements
  - Phased Approach
- Potential Water Quality Degradation
- Potential Increased Public Health Risk
- Rely on Treatment to Meet Regulations & Manage Risk
Alternative 2
Maintain Current Conditions

- Narrative or Numeric WQO
- No Change in Water Quality
- No Change in Risk to Public Health

Implementation
- Dischargers Required to Monitor
- Water Board Regulatory Programs
- Watershed Management
Alternative 3
Improve Source Water Quality

- Narrative or Numeric WQO
- Water Quality Improvement for MUN Uses
- Reduced Risk to Public Health
- Implementation
  - Dischargers Required to Monitor
  - Water Board Regulatory Programs
  - Watershed Management
Technical Evaluations

- Gather Existing Data
- Water Quality Modeling
  - Conceptual Models
  - Analytical Models
- Evaluate Control Strategies: Implementation
  - Source Control
  - Drinking Water Treatment
Schedule

- Scoping Meetings – Summer 2008
- Complete Technical Studies – August 2009
- Staff Report – October 2009
- Peer Review – January 2010
- Public Review – April 2010
- Adoption Hearing – June 2010
CEQA Checklist

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural resources
- Air quality
- Biological resources
- Cultural resources
- Geology & soils
- Hazardous materials
- Hydrology & water quality
- Land use & planning
- Mineral resources
- Noise
- Population & housing
- Public services
- Recreation
- Transportation/traffic
- Utilities & sewer services
For More Information

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Website

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/drinking_water_policy/