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# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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## Central Valley Pesticide TMDL and Basin Plan Amendment April 2009 Project Status Update

### Overall Project Status

The focus of the project is currently on finalizing the technical reports necessary to support the development of the Central Valley Pesticide TMDL and Basin Plan Amendment (Amendment). Several technical reports, which are discussed below, will be released to the public in draft and/or final form in 2009. A proposed Basin Plan Amendment is scheduled to be brought to the Regional Board in June 2010. The proposed Amendment will contain water quality objectives for pesticides in surface water in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins, as well as implementation provisions. The Amendment will contain total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for applicable waterbody segment-pesticide combinations. In terms of the number of pesticides addressed, the original scope of this project may be accomplished through multiple amendments. The Amendment proposed in June 2010 will address, at a minimum, diazinon and chlorpyrifos.

A public meeting was held on 30 May 2008, to discuss overall project status and stakeholder comments on two draft technical reports - the Pesticide Relative Risk Evaluation Report and the Water Quality Criteria Methodology Phase 2 Report. Since the May 2008 Public Meeting, the Pesticide Risk Evaluation Report has been finalized, while the other technical reports are still in progress. Due to limited available resources, limited progress has been made over the last several months, so no stakeholder meetings were scheduled. Increases in available resources will result in an increased pace of progress on this project between now and the June 2010 Board Meeting, therefore more frequent stakeholder meetings will likely be appropriate.

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### Selected Water Bodies and Aquatic Life Uses Report

A public review draft aquatic life use assessment report was released in 2007. Staff are currently working on finalizing the report and responding to public comments. A final report, including a list of waterbodies recommended for inclusion in the scope of this Amendment, is anticipated by fall 2009.

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### Pesticide Risk Evaluation Report

A public review draft of the Pesticide Relative Risk Evaluation report, covering the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, was released in April 2008 and comments were submitted by June 9, 2008. A final report and response to comments was released in March 2009. The report

identifies 38 current-use pesticides which, based on their use, chemical properties and toxicities, have higher potential risk to aquatic life in surface waters.

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### **Water Quality Criteria Methodology Reports**

A “Phase 1” report containing a review of existing methodologies for determining water aquatic life quality criteria for pesticides was released in April 2006. A public review draft of the “Phase 2” report containing a new water quality criteria derivation methodology, and an example of its application (derivation of chlorpyrifos water quality criteria), was released in 2007. A final “Phase 2” report and response to comments is expected by fall 2009.

A “Phase 3” report, in which the methodology is applied to approximately 5 pesticides, is currently in development. Pesticides of high priority due to potential risk to aquatic life have been selected based on information from the Relative Risk Evaluation, from the 303(d) list of impaired waters, and from monitoring data. These pesticides currently include diazinon, malathion, bifenthrin and diuron. Application of the criteria derivation methodology will result in pesticide criteria that the Regional Board can consider, along with other available criteria, for interpretation of narrative objectives and/or adoption as water quality objectives through Basin Plan Amendments.

### ***Water Quality Monitoring Reports***

Reports from pesticide monitoring related to the development of this amendment have been finalized through the 2006 irrigation season and are available online. A report for monitoring in the 2007 irrigation season is being finalized and should be available in 2009. The reports from this project’s water quality monitoring are, or will be, posted at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/tmdl/central\\_valley\\_projects/central\\_valley\\_pesticides/monitoring/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/tmdl/central_valley_projects/central_valley_pesticides/monitoring/index.shtml)

### **Sediment Quality Criteria**

Staff continues to review available sediment criteria methodologies, and tracks the State Water Board’s progress in developing Sediment Quality Objectives for California Bays and Estuaries, including the Delta. Sediment quality criteria are not currently within the scope of the Amendment currently in development, and are more likely to be included in future amendments.

### **Agricultural Management Practices Report**

The Regional Board has contracted with UC Davis researchers to prepare a report on available management practices to reduce agricultural pesticide runoff, including an evaluation on their costs and effectiveness. The report is expected to be completed in fall 2009.

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