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# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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## **Central Valley Pesticide Basin Plan Amendment October 2006 Project Status Update**

### **Overall Project Status Update**

Considerable progress has been made on a number of aspects of this project since the previous project status update (January 2006). Staff has completed and made available a response to scoping comments document that contains responses to comments on the scope of this project and resulting changes to the project scope. Staff is currently updating the project plan to account for project scope changes. More detail about the status of individual elements of this overall project is included below. Background information and available documents related to this project are available on the project website at

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/programs/tmdl/pest-basinplan-amend/index.html>

Project Contact - Joe Karkoski (916) 464-4668; [jkarkoski@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jkarkoski@waterboards.ca.gov)

### **Aquatic Life Use Assessment**

Staff is currently preparing a report that identifies natural streams within the project area that support aquatic life. In order to assess the presence of aquatic life, staff is using existing bioassessment data rather than conducting our own bioassessment monitoring. A draft aquatic life use assessment report is expected to be completed by December 2006.

Contact – Petra Lee (916) 464-4603; [plee@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:plee@waterboards.ca.gov)

### **Pesticide Risk Evaluation**

A revised draft pesticide risk evaluation for the Sacramento Valley was made available for public review and comment in February 2006. Staff is now working on a revised and expanded pesticide risk evaluation that will cover the Lower Sacramento and San Joaquin River Watersheds as well as the Delta and that will address both agricultural and non-agricultural pesticide uses. The expected completion date for a draft of the revised, expanded pesticide risk evaluation report is early 2007.

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### **Water Quality Criteria**

Water Quality Criteria and methodologies are currently being developed under contract by researchers at the Environmental Toxicology Department of the University of California, Davis. Progress on the three phases of the UC Davis contract is described below.

### **Phase I - Review of Existing Methodologies Used to Derive Water Quality Criteria**

A draft Phase I report was released to the public in April 2006. This report reviewed water quality criteria derivation methods from around the world. The report evaluated strengths and weaknesses of each existing method, but did not find any single method that included all of the Regional Water Board's desired features.

### **Phase II - Identification of an Existing Method(s) or Development of a New Method**

A draft methodology development report has been sent to technical peer review. Comments have been received from the peer reviewers, and responses are being prepared. A draft methodology development report will be released before the end of 2006.

### **Phase III - Application of the new method to Diazinon, Chlorpyrifos and up to 3 Additional Pesticides**

Draft diazinon and chlorpyrifos criteria are in development and are expected by the end of 2006. There is not enough funding in the current contract with UC Davis to perform criteria derivation on more than diazinon and chlorpyrifos. Staff is looking into augmenting the UC Davis contract to provide for derivation of criteria for additional pesticides.

Contact – Paul Hann (916) 464-4628; phann@waterboards.ca.gov.

### **Water Quality Monitoring**

Monitoring has been completed for 2006. The monitoring and quality assurance plan for the 2006 monitoring is available at on the Central Valley Pesticide Basin Plan Amendment website. A report on the 2006 dormant season sampling (January and February) is expected to be available by the end of October, and a report on the 2006 irrigation season (March through August) is expected to be available by the end of January. Similar water quality monitoring is planned for 2007. The 2007 monitoring will likely include some additional sites, including some urban sites, and may include some additional pesticides. A monitoring and quality assurance plan for the 2007 monitoring should be available in January 2007.

Contact – Petra Lee (916) 464-4603; plee@waterboards.ca.gov

### **Sediment Quality Criteria**

Staff has begun to review available sediment criteria methodologies, and has been tracking the State Water Board's progress in developing Sediment Quality Objectives for California Bays and Estuaries, including the Delta.

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### **Source Assessment and Loading Capacity Analysis**

This analysis will be conducted after completion of the pesticide risk evaluation.

### **Management Practice Alternatives**

Based on the pesticide risk evaluation, the Regional Water Board's staff report on management practices to reduce pesticide runoff will be reviewed and potentially updated to reflect any new information on management practices. Staff is currently looking into having UC Davis researchers prepare an updated report on management practices to control pesticide runoff.