



The 2014 Central Valley Integrated Report



CONTENT AND PURPOSE OF THIS INFORMATION SHEET

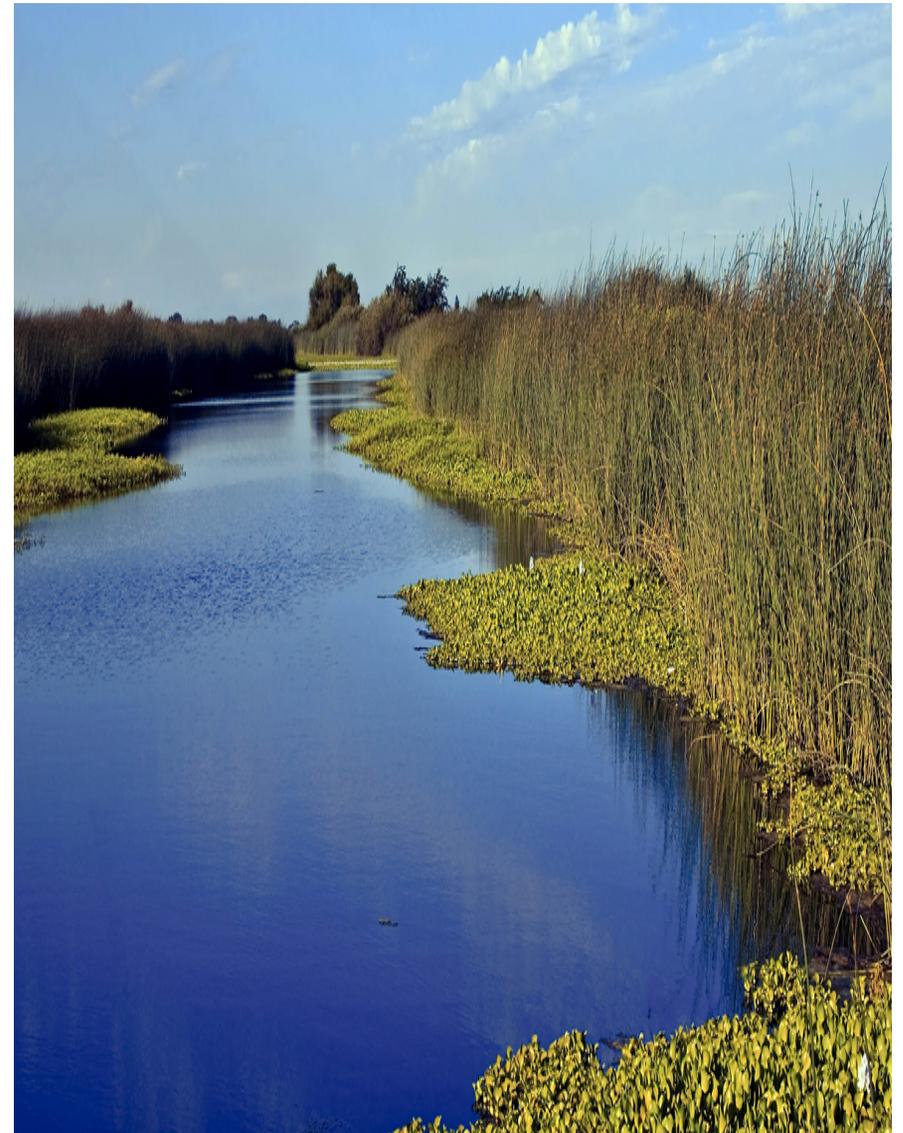
This information sheet provides an overview of the following:

- ✓ 2014 Central Valley Integrated Report
- ✓ Water Quality Assessment Process
- ✓ Recommended Changes to the 2010 303(d) list
- ✓ 2014 Integrated Report Process Timeline
- ✓ Next Steps

OVERVIEW

The 2014 Central Valley Integrated Report, comprised of the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of impaired waters and the Section 305(b) report, provides an assessment of surface water quality in the Central Valley. This information sheet includes a description of the 2014 Integrated Report, the water quality assessment process, recommended changes to the 2010 list of impaired water bodies, the 2014 Integrated Report timeline, and next steps in the 2014 Integrated Report process.

In developing the Integrated Report, extensive water quality data are assessed to evaluate water quality. Water quality data obtained by internal Central Valley Water Board programs such as the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program and the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program were augmented with data from outside agencies. Significantly more information was available and assessed for the 2014 Integrated Report cycle than for previous cycles. The large number of proposed new listings discussed in this fact sheet likely reflects an increase in knowledge and not necessarily a decrease in water quality since the previous Integrated Report.



THE 2014 CENTRAL VALLEY INTEGRATED REPORT

The Clean Water Act gives states the primary responsibility for protecting and restoring water quality. Under the Clean Water Act Section 303(d), states are required to develop, update, and submit a list of impaired or threatened water body segments to the USEPA. The 2014 Integrated Report is the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of impaired (not meeting water quality standards) water bodies and the Section 305(b) (overall water quality assessment) report integrated into one report. The Integrated Report is ultimately compiled into a “National Water Quality Inventory Report” by USEPA and submitted to Congress.

In California, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards have primary responsibility for implementing Clean Water Act requirements, including developing and implementing programs to achieve water quality standards. Water quality standards include designated beneficial uses of water bodies, criteria or objectives (numeric or narrative) that are protective of those beneficial uses, and policies to limit the degradation of water bodies. The water quality standards for water bodies in the Central Valley Region are primarily contained in two “Basin Plans”—the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins and the Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin. Additional water quality standards applicable to the surface waters in the Central Valley Region are contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay-Delta and the federally promulgated California Toxics Rule.

WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Central Valley Water Board staff assessed the available data for each associated water body segment to determine the overall beneficial-use support of six “core” beneficial uses: aquatic life, drinking water supply, fish consumption, non-contact recreation, shell fishing, and swimming. Central Valley Water Board staff’s recommendations for updating the Integrated Report were developed in accordance with the Water Quality Control Policy for Developing California’s Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List (Listing Policy), which describes the requirements for developing the 303(d) list in

California. In addition to conforming to the Listing Policy, Central Valley Water Board staff considers public comments. Determining the exceedances of water quality objectives forms the basis of the water quality assessments for Sections 303(d) and 305(b), and indicates a water body’s ability to support its designated beneficial uses and whether to list the water body as impaired on the 303(d) list.

Data were aggregated by water body segment, in accordance with the requirements of the Listing Policy, and assessments were performed on the individual segments. The 2014 Central Valley Integrated Report was developed by comparing the water quality data to water quality objectives applicable to each water body segment (i.e. objective and pollutant combinations). The numeric water quality objectives include site- and/or pollutant-specific values, Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) promulgated by the California Department of Public Health, California Toxics Rule (CTR) Criteria, and pesticide toxicity values. For pollutants that do not have numeric Basin Plan Objectives, MCLs, or CTR Criteria, numerical “evaluation guidelines” were used as the criteria to interpret the Basin Plans’ applicable narrative objectives, in accordance with the Listing Policy.

For each water body segment and pollutant, Central Valley Water Board staff compared the number of samples that exceed the water quality criterion to the total number of samples. In most instances, the number of sample exceedances relative to the total number of samples was assessed using the binomial methodology described in the Listing Policy. In some cases, a Basin Plan objective, CTR criterion, or other water quality criterion contained an explicit maximum exceedance frequency. In these cases, in addition to using the default binomial methodology in the Listing Policy, the explicit exceedance frequency in the objective or criterion was used to assess potential impairments under the weight-of-evidence listing factors described in the Listing Policy. Spatial and temporal representation of data was assessed using the requirements and guidance of the Listing Policy. The Listing Policy is available at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/303d_listing.shtml

To facilitate documenting, assessing, and reporting the large volume of data, fact sheets for each water body segment, pollutant, and beneficial use combination were created. In addition to summarizing the data assessment information, each fact sheet states a decision or determination of water quality standard attainment. The fact sheets, including supporting data and information, can be found online at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/tmdl/impaired_waters_list/index.shtml

Based on the assessment of the available water quality data, staff considered all of the fact sheets together for each water body segment, including any fact sheets in the 2010 Integrated Report, to make a decision as to the overall beneficial-use-support condition of each water body segment. The overall beneficial use condition of each water body segment was assigned to one of five non-overlapping, overall beneficial-use-support categories ranging from full use protection to placement on the 303(d) list of impaired or threatened water bodies. For more information about the water quality assessment process, please view the Integrated Report, which can be found online at the above-mentioned website.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE 2010 303(d) LIST

The Integrated Report documents the proposed changes to the 303(d) list and the rationale for all 303(d) listing/de-listing decisions. Over 10,000 fact sheets were prepared in the development of this report. Taking into account the amount of new data available, the numerous water bodies and water quality issues in the Central Valley Region, the protective nature of water quality standards, and the requirements of the Listing Policy to evaluate all readily available data, there are 309 proposed new 303(d) listings (new water body segment/pollutant combinations) and 38 proposed de-listings. The proposed 2014 303(d) list will indicate water body segments that have had Total Maximum Daily Loads (implementation plans) adopted since the 303(d) list was last updated in 2010.

The number of proposed new listings should not be used to describe temporal trends in the overall water quality because many of these water bodies and pollutants have never been assessed before. Formal identification of the water quality problems on the 303(d) list can be viewed as an early step in bringing waters into attainment of standards.

THE 2014 INTEGRATED REPORT PROCESS AND TIMELINE

In January 2010, the State Water Board sent a Notice of Public Solicitation of Water Quality Data and Information for the 2012 Integrated Report update cycle. The deadline for submittal of data was August 30, 2010.

In June 2013, State Water Board management met with USEPA Division of Water Quality management to discuss strategies to create a more efficient and timely Integrated Report update process. The strategy agreed upon divides the nine Regional Water Boards into three groups. As proposed, each group will submit an updated Integrated Report in one of the three successive, two-year-update cycles (see table below).

Following adoption by the Central Valley Water Board, the 2014 Integrated Report will be transmitted to the State Water Board, where it will be considered for approval before USEPA has final review.

Integrated Report Update Schedule	
Year	Regional Board (RB)
2012	North Coast (RB 1) Lahontan (RB 6) Colorado Basin (RB 7)
2014	Central Coast (RB 3) <u>Central Valley (RB 5)</u> San Diego (RB 9)
2016	San Francisco Bay (RB 2) Los Angeles (RB 4) Santa Ana (RB 8)

Regional Water Boards that are “off-cycle” have an opportunity to assess new “high-priority” data, make new listing/delisting decisions, and submit assessments and decisions to the State Water Board for inclusion into the then current Integrated Report update cycle. The Central Valley Water Board would again be “on-cycle” to develop and approve its next full Integrated Report update in 2020.



NEXT STEPS

Central Valley Water Board staff has developed a draft 2014 Central Valley Integrated Report for public review. Staff will hold a public workshop before presenting the Report to the Central Valley Water Board for consideration of adoption. Once approved by the Central Valley Water Board, the State Water Board and USEPA must approve it before it becomes final. For additional information about this information sheet, please contact Jay Simi at (916) 464-4833 or Jay.Simi@waterboards.ca.gov.