

WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN 2009 TRIENNIAL REVIEW

STAFF REPORT



**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION**

July 2009

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Appendix A – Public Notice and Minutes of Public Workshop

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Triennial Review

1. Introduction

This Staff Report presents the results of the 2009 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the San Francisco Basin (Region 2). The report presents the product of the Triennial Review, a listing of proposed Basin Plan water quality issues that may be investigated and addressed through Basin Plan amendments over the next few years. The last Triennial Review was completed in 2004; a status of the priority issues identified in the last review is provided in Table 1.

The Basin Plan is the master policy document that contains descriptions of the legal, technical, and programmatic bases of water quality regulation in the San Francisco Bay Region, including water quality standards. The Water Board first adopted a plan for waters inland from the Golden Gate in 1968. After several revisions, the first comprehensive Basin Plan for the Region was adopted by the Water Board, and then approved by the State Water Board in April 1975. Major revisions have been adopted since 1975 to address changing water quality conditions, priorities, and programs. As Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Basin Plan amendments are currently being adopted on an on-going basis, the Basin Plan is subject to more frequent revisions than in the past.

The Basin Plan establishes water quality standards for the San Francisco Bay Region. In California, water quality standards include designated beneficial uses for surface and ground waters; narrative or numeric water quality objectives to protect those beneficial uses; and a provision to protect high quality waters from degrading to the level allowed by the objectives (i.e., antidegradation). Basin Plans also include implementation plans for water quality objectives, consisting of various regulatory programs.

A Triennial Review of the Basin Plan provides an opportunity to review and receive public input on water quality standards and implementation plans. The Triennial Review results in a work plan for future Basin Plan amendments. Basin Plan amendment projects to develop TMDLs are not included in the work plan. The Triennial Review is required under section 303(c)(1) of the Clean Water Act and section 13240 of the California Water Code.

During the Triennial Review process, Water Board staff 1) considers public comments on water quality issues that may require investigation; 2) develops a prioritized list of Basin Plan issues that may be investigated by the Water Board staff over the next three years; and 3) presents the list in the form of a resolution for Water Board consideration. The inclusion of an issue on the prioritized Triennial Review list does not necessarily mean that any amendment will be made to the Basin Plan. Water Board staff first reviews the technical and legal considerations associated with an issue and then decides whether to proceed with a proposed Basin Plan amendment.

This report includes a description of the Triennial Review process, including a summary of the public's participation, a description of the methodology used to evaluate and rank each issue; estimates of the time and staff resources needed to investigate the issue and to prepare a Basin Plan amendment; and a generalized ranking of the issues by priority with a brief description of the issue.

2. Triennial Review Steps

In 2008, Water Board staff developed a list of issues to be addressed in future Basin Plan amendments. This effort included review and update of the list of priority Basin Plan issues identified in the last Triennial Review, coordination with the statewide Basin Plan roundtable and an internal review of the Water Board’s regulatory program needs. Based on this effort, Water Board staff produced a “Brief Issue Descriptions” paper, describing potential priority projects. These 16 projects are shown in Table 1 and described in Appendix B. Ongoing projects that were identified in the last Triennial Review are included in this Triennial Review as well.

Table 1. Basin Plan Projects Proposed by Board Staff

| |
|--|
| Update Beneficial Uses |
| Complete Update of Significant Water Bodies and their Associated Beneficial Uses |
| Evaluation of the Beneficial Use for Municipal and Domestic Supply for Groundwater Aquifers along the Bay Fringe |
| Designation of Beneficial Uses for Hayward Marsh |
| Evaluation of the Shellfish Harvesting Beneficial Use for San Francisco Bay |
| Complete Stream and Wetland Systems Protection Policy |
| Update Water Quality Objectives |
| Adopt U.S. EPA Beach Act Recreational Contact Criteria |
| Develop Site-Specific Objectives for Dissolved Oxygen in Wetlands, Slough Channels and Other Shoreline Habitats in San Francisco Bay |
| Refine Alameda Creek Watershed TDS and Chloride Water Quality Objectives |
| Development of Biocriteria |
| Marine Debris |
| Update Implementation Plans |
| Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs) for Groundwater Cleanups |
| Low Risk Site Closure Requirements |
| Update Plans And Policies |
| The California Water Plan |
| Water Recycling Policy |
| Climate Change and Water Resources Policy |
| Editorial Revisions, Minor Clarifications Or Corrections |

On April 25, 2008, the public process on the Triennial Review was initiated formally by distributing the “Brief Issue Descriptions” paper to interested parties, posting it on the Water Board’s website, and requesting interested parties to comment on the described issues and/or suggest additional projects they perceive a need for. The public notice provided a 35-day period (April 25 - May 30, 2008) for written comments, and announced a public workshop on this topic on May 19, 2008. Appendix A includes a copy of the Notice of Public Solicitation Period and Public Workshop for Basin Plan Triennial Review and the minutes of the public workshop.

Following a review of all the comments submitted by the public and a systematic ranking of all the potential projects, Water Board staff developed a prioritized list of Basin Plan issues for consideration as Basin Plan amendments during the upcoming 3-year period. This report presents the results of the issue identification, ranking and prioritization efforts.

To formally complete the Triennial Review, the Water Board must adopt a resolution approving the Triennial Review of the Basin Plan and adopting a Prioritized List of Basin Plan Issues. Staff will provide a formal response to comments received on this staff report as part of the board package supporting the resolution.

3. Summary of Public Participation Process

The public, both in their written comments and during the public workshop, voiced support for projects identified by staff and/or suggested new potential projects for staff to consider. Many of the public comments encouraged the Water Board to continue working on planning projects already underway. These comments are summarized below.

Participants included individuals and representatives of federal, regional, and neighborhood entities. Entities and individuals who participated in the solicitation process are listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Triennial Review Public Participants

| Organization/Participant | Written Comments | Attended Workshop |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alameda County Water District, Paul Piraino | ✓ | |
| Bay Area Clean Water Agencies, Michele Pla | ✓ | |
| Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association, Geoff Brosseau | ✓ | |
| BayKeeper, Sejol Choksi & Amy Chastain | ✓ | |
| City of San Jose, Peter Schafer | | ✓ |
| City of Sunnyvale, Tom Hall of EOA | ✓ | |
| Dan Cloak Environmental, Dan Cloak | | ✓ |
| East Bay Municipal Utility District, Kenneth Minn | ✓ | ✓ |
| EOA, Inc., Chris Sommers | | ✓ |
| Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD), Lawrence Johmann | ✓ | ✓ |
| Mountain View Sanitary District, Dick Bogaert, Wetlands Biologist, & Irene Chang, Technical Services Manager | ✓ | |
| Oakley Water, Monica Oakley | | ✓ |
| Ross Creek Neighbors, David Crites | ✓ | |

| Organization/Participant | Written Comments | Attended Workshop |
|--|------------------|-------------------|
| Santa Clara Valley Water District, Barbara Judd, Sr Engineer | ✓ | |
| San Francisco Public Utility Commission, Arleen Navarret | | ✓ |
| San Francisco Public Utility Commission, Kaamil H. Parghi | | ✓ |
| South Bayside System Authority, Dan Child | | ✓ |
| Tetra Tech EMI, Stephanie Glazer | | ✓ |
| Trish Mulvey | ✓ | |
| U.S. EPA, Nancy Yoshikawa, Janet Hashimoto | ✓ | ✓ |
| UC-Berkeley Environmental Health & Safety, Karl Hans | | ✓ |
| UC-Berkeley Environmental Health & Safety, Tim Pine | | ✓ |
| Union Sanitary District, James Chen | ✓ | ✓ |
| Water Resources Management, Roger James | | ✓ |
| Zone 7 Water Agency, Elke Rank | | ✓ |

3.1. Public Input in Support of Planned Projects

Many comments were in favor of various projects presented by Water Board staff in the “Brief Issue Descriptions” paper. These supporting comments are summarized below.

Adopt U.S. EPA Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act Marine Recreational Contact Criteria as Water Quality Objectives. This project proposes adoption of federally promulgated bacteriological indicator criteria for protection of human health during water contact recreation and update of the implementation plan, Table 4-2. This project received wide public support during the solicitation process, from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA), the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA), and the City of Sunnyvale.

Complete the Update of Significant Water Bodies and their Associated Beneficial Uses. This project would result in a more robust listing of the Region’s water bodies and their existing beneficial uses. “Existing beneficial uses” are those uses actually attained in the water body on or after November 28, 1975. This project is supported by BASMAA, the U.S. EPA, the Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD), and Ross Creek Neighbors. Written comments from Ross Creek Neighbors were signed by 114 neighbors and included information on Ross Creek’s beneficial uses. In addition, this project is expected to address another U.S. EPA concern about the municipal and domestic supply (MUN) beneficial use as it applies to some creeks that are receiving waters for NPDES dischargers.

Complete the Stream and Wetland Systems Protection Policy. The U.S. EPA, BASMAA, and GCRCDC support completion of this policy to protect stream channels, wetlands, floodplains, and riparian areas. The policy would include new beneficial uses and water quality objectives to protect stream and wetland system functions, for example flood water storage.

Develop Narrative Water Quality Objectives for Marine Debris. This project would propose new narrative water quality objectives for trash and marine debris to protect the Bay and ocean beneficial uses and is also supported by the U.S. EPA, BASMAA, and GCRCDC.

Evaluate the Shellfish Harvesting Beneficial Use. BASMAA, the City of Sunnyvale, and BACWA support this project, which will evaluate whether the Bay's current designation for commercial and recreational shellfish uses (SHELL) is appropriate and whether SHELL should have a subcategory for recreational shellfishing.

Develop Bioassessment Water Quality Objectives. Both the U.S. EPA and BASMAA support this project to develop narrative objectives to support the use of biological data in water quality assessments. The State Water Board has identified this as an important statewide project as well. A regional project would therefore likely focus on implementation of any future-adopted statewide objectives.

Evaluate the Beneficial Use of Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) for Groundwater Aquifers Along the Bay Fringe. BASMAA supports this project, which will evaluate the MUN beneficial use designation in groundwater along the Bay fringe that is typically characterized by low well yield and elevated total dissolved solids concentrations. The Alameda County Water District is supportive of this project, where it may be appropriate, exclusive of groundwater the District currently pumps for use as drinking water.

In addition, the following projects from the "Brief Issue Descriptions" paper also received at least one supporting comment:

- Designate beneficial uses for Hayward Marsh;
- Develop site-specific objectives for dissolved oxygen in wetlands, slough channels, and other shoreline habitats in San Francisco Bay;
- Update the Basin Plan section on water recycling;
- Review existing policies and programs in relation to climate change; and
- Participate in the California Department of Water Resources' preparation of the California Water Plan and consider the need for Basin Plan updates.

3.2. Other Potential Planning Projects Proposed by Commenters

As previously mentioned, public comments covered a wide range of potential projects and Basin Plan improvements. Water Board staff considered these comments and determined whether to evaluate the proposed project as a Basin Plan project. Table 3 summarizes those comments to be considered in the ranking process.

Table 3. Summary of Comments Suggesting Other Planning Projects

| Entity | Topic | Resolution |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| U.S.EPA & City of Sunnyvale | Toxicity Requirements: Update the whole effluent toxicity limits section. City of Sunnyvale also requested an update of sections on acute and chronic toxicity and recommended a review of the toxicity test results as compared to cost. | State Water Board staff is working on a policy to amend the toxicity control provisions of the State Implementation Plan in 2009. Added to the project list. |
| U.S.EPA | Nutrients: U.S. EPA has developed "numeric nutrient criteria guidance," to be considered for adoption in Basin Plans. | State Water Board is working on projects to develop numeric nutrient criteria for inland waters and estuaries and has asked us to participate in this effort. Thus, this will be added to the project list. |
| U.S.EPA | Pentachlorophenol Water Quality Objectives (WQOs): Consider adoption of pentachlorophenol criteria more stringent than current California Toxic Rule (CTR) values, where appropriate in the Region, to be protective of early life stage salmonid fish. | Added to the project list |
| Mountain View Sanitary District | Develop Site Specific Objective for pH in tidal wetlands, slough channels, & other shoreline habitats. | Added to the project list |
| EBMUD | Modify Groundwater Recharge Beneficial Use (BU): include storage of drinking water in groundwater aquifers, considering effect of climate change on water resources. Set water quality standards or exemptions that allow such storage. | Added to the project list |
| Bay-Keeper | Amend Wet Weather Flows Discussion: (Section 4.9.2 & Table 4-6) in response to State Water Board's remand of EBMUD's wet weather discharge permit. | Added to the project list |
| City of Sunnyvale | Limited Contact Recreation BU: Add a new beneficial use of Limited Contact Recreation. | Added to the project list |
| City of Sunnyvale | Update Tributyltin (TBT) WQO: Update Footnotes to Tables 3-3 & 3-4 to reflect EPA adopted final TBT criteria in Dec. 2003. | This will be considered as part of the Editorial Updates Project. |
| GCRC | Chapter 1-Introduction: Add more detail. | This will be considered as part of the Editorial Updates Project. |
| State Water Board | Cadmium WQOs: Update Basin Plan, as needed. The State Water Board is working to adopt U.S. EPA's 304(a) revised recommended cadmium criteria in order to resolve issues raised by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the CTR objectives. | Added to the project list |
| State Water Board | Freshwater Contact Recreation Objectives for Bacteria: Update Basin Plan, as needed. State Water Board is working to adopt U.S. EPA's freshwater bacteria criteria for E.coli as objectives. | Added to the project list |

In summary, the solicitation process, public input and State Water Board staff input resulted in the addition of nine projects to the 16 projects initially identified in Table 1 above. A total of 25 projects were considered in the Triennial Review. The ranking process is described in section 4 below, and all the projects are more fully described in Appendix B.

4. Project Ranking Criteria

As was the case during the last Triennial Review, there are more potential projects than resources; only two full-time staff positions are funded for Basin Planning efforts. In this Triennial Review, the ranking criteria remain largely unchanged from the last Triennial Review, except that two criteria (“Customer Service” and “Perceived Public Interest”) have been combined into one, entitled “Public Interest,” and the criteria “User Friendly Basin Plan” has been eliminated. While the criteria, “User Friendly Basin Plan” was eliminated as a ranking criteria, this Board continues to work on improving its web page to provide easier access to an updated Basin Plan. The scoring process was also modified so that the highest score possible is 100 points rather than the 60 used in the last triennial review. This change resulted in some criteria receiving a higher possible score than others. Each project receives an overall score, which sums up the project’s individual scores for a range of criteria. The high-scoring projects are given priority for staff action in the following three year period. The ranking criteria and scoring are described below.

4.1. Water Board Mission (Protect Beneficial Uses)

Projects that improve protection of beneficial uses were given higher scores (five is the highest score possible), while projects that would result in little or no direct improvement of beneficial uses were given lower scores. No projects that would weaken protection of beneficial uses are considered.

4.2. Staff Resources Already Invested

This criterion recognizes and gives higher priority to projects that already have expended substantial Water Board staff resources. Projects already underway for a year or more received a score of fifteen. Projects that have not been worked on received a score of five. Projects that have received some staff resources, but are still at the early stages of developmental were assigned a score of ten.

4.3. External Resources Already Invested

This criterion recognizes and gives higher priority to projects for which external resources have been expended. External resources may include grant funding or funding provided by affected parties to assist the Water Board in coordinating technical information and stakeholder outreach for Basin Plan amendments. Projects that have received external investment received a score of five; other projects received a score of one.

4.4. External Resources Likely Available

Similarly, where external resources will be (or will continue to be) dedicated to a project, higher priority is given. Such resources would augment Water Board staffing, helping to complete controversial or complex projects that otherwise might not have adequate staffing. Scores were

assigned based on experience with projects where external resources have been invested, as described above, with a maximum possible score of five. Projects with no external resources received a score of one.

4.5. *Public Interest*

Water Board staff solicited input from the public, including the regulated community, citizens, and environmental groups. Projects suggested by multiple members of the public or other stakeholders received the highest score of fifteen in this category.

4.6. *Input from Internal Divisions*

Staff from the Water Board's Groundwater, Watershed, and NPDES divisions were tasked with identifying Basin Planning projects that would facilitate program implementation, clarify the Basin Plan, and provide better customer service. Ten points were given to projects identified as a top division priority.

4.7. *Implement State Water Board Policy*

In all Triennial Reviews conducted by Regional Water Boards, one of the first items reviewed is whether there have been changes in statewide policies or plans that are inconsistent with specific Basin Plan language. A highest score of fifteen was given to projects that would bring the Basin Plan into conformance with statewide plans or policies.

4.8. *U.S. EPA Priority*

Projects that address comments in a U.S. EPA Basin Plan approval letter or other input from U.S. EPA, such as the comment letters on previous Basin Plan amendments or the comment letter on this Triennial Review, were given a score of fifteen, and issues that did not relate to U.S. EPA stated interests received a score of five.

4.9. *Geographic Scope*

Projects that address multiple water bodies and regulated entities throughout the Region received higher scores (ten versus five) than issues that were more site-specific or discharger-specific.

4.10. *Low Controversy and Low Technical Complexity*

These two ranking criteria recognize that projects with lower controversy and lower technical complexity could be completed efficiently, with fewer staff resources. Higher scores were assigned for non-controversial projects and for those that are considered to be straightforward from a technical perspective.

5. Project Ranking Results

Using the criteria described in section 4, a point value for each criterion was assigned to each potential Basin Plan project. Points for each project were combined to represent its overall score.

With the large number of projects under consideration, it is useful to focus further analyses on the highest priority projects. Thus, the projects were further ranked as high, medium, or low

priority. One-third of the projects were placed in each category, based on their overall scores. The resulting point ranges are:

Table 4. Point Ranges for Generalized Rank Categories

| Point Range | Generalized Rank |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| ≥ 60 | High |
| 50-60 | Medium |
| < 50 | Low |

The overall score and generalized ranking for each project is displayed in Figure 1. Scores for each individual project are shown in Table 5.

Figure 1 – Basin Plan Project Ranking Scores and Generalized Rankings

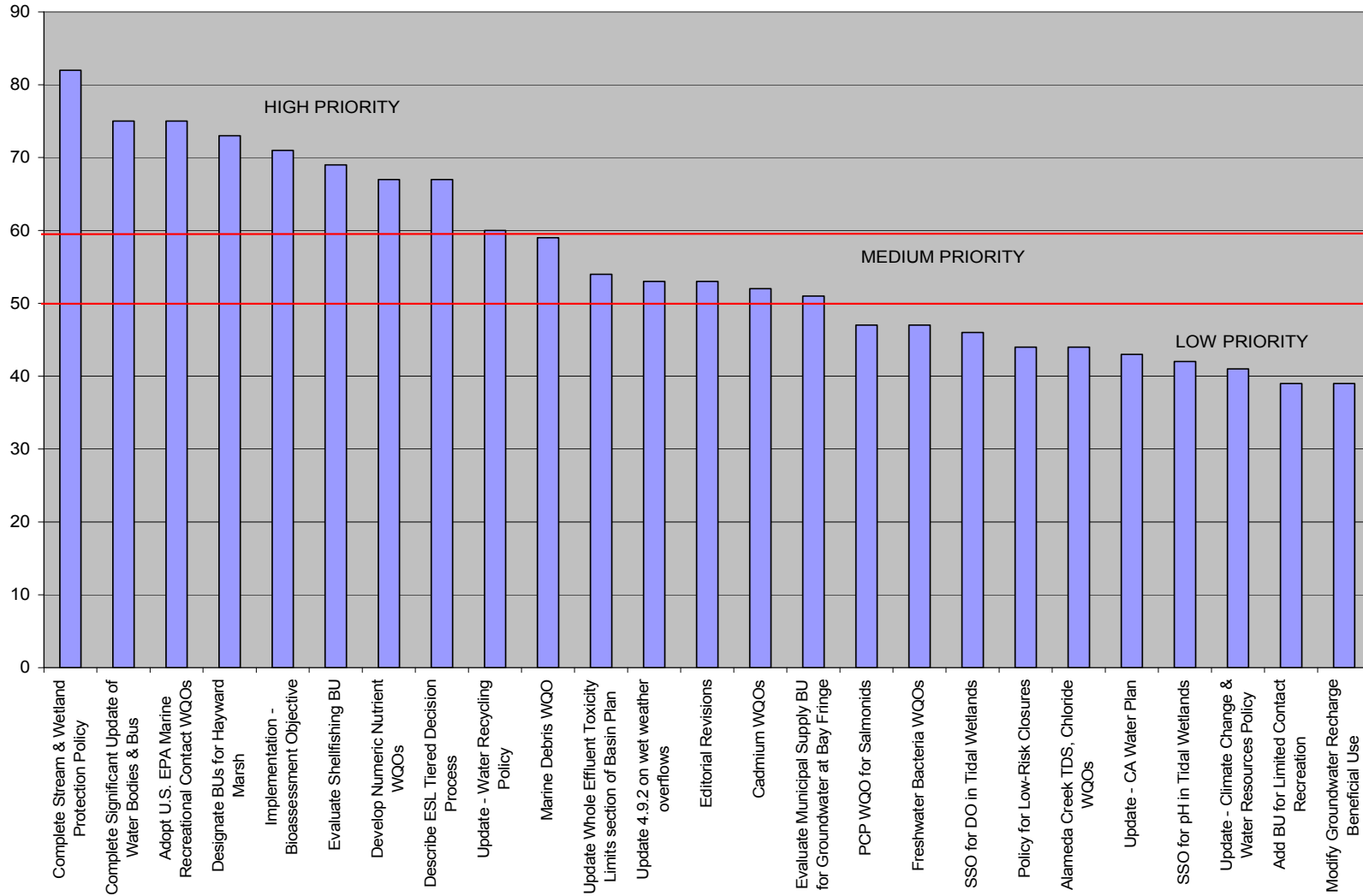


Table 5 Rank-Ordered Scoring for Individual Issues

| Rank Order | ISSUE TITLE | Protects Beneficial Uses | Staff Resources Already Expended | External Resources Already Expended | External Resources Likely Available | Public Interest | Input from Internal Divisions | Implement State Water Board Policy | U.S. EPA Priority | Geo-graphic Scope | Low Con-troversy | Low Technical Complexity | SCORE |
|------------|---|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| 1 | Complete Stream & Wetland Protection Policy | 5 | 15 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 15 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 82 |
| 2 | Complete Significant Update of Water Bodies & BUs | 5 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 75 |
| 3 | Adopt U.S. EPA Marine Recreational Contact WQOs | 5 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 75 |
| 4 | Designate BUs for Hayward Marsh | 5 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 15 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 73 |
| 5 | Implementation - Bioassessment Objectives | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 15 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 71 |
| 6 | Evaluate Shellfishing BU | 5 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 69 |
| 7 | Develop Numeric Nutrient WQOs | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 15 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 67 |
| 8 | Describe ESL Tiered Decision Process | 5 | 15 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 67 |
| 9 | Update - Water Recycling Policy | 5 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 15 | 5 | 10 | 3 | 5 | 60 |
| 10 | Marine Debris WQO | 5 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 15 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 59 |
| 11 | Update Whole Effluent Toxicity Limits section of Basin Plan | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 54 |
| 12 | Update 4.9.2 on wet weather overflows | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 53 |

| Rank Order | ISSUE TITLE | Protects Beneficial Uses | Staff Resources Already Expended | External Resources Already Expended | External Resources Likely Available | Public Interest | Input from Internal Divisions | Implement State Water Board Policy | U.S. EPA Priority | Geo-graphic Scope | Low Con-troversy | Low Technical Complexity | SCORE |
|------------|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| 13 | Editorial Revisions | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 53 |
| 14 | Cadmium WQOs | 5 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 52 |
| 15 | Evaluate Municipal Supply BU for Groundwater at Bay Fringe | 3 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 51 |
| 16 | PCP WQO for Salmonids | 5 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 15 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 47 |
| 17 | Freshwater Bacteria WQOs | 5 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 47 |
| 18 | SSO for DO in Tidal Wetlands | 3 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 46 |
| 19 | Policy for Low-Risk Closures | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 44 |
| 20 | Alameda Creek TDS, Chloride WQOs | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 44 |
| 21 | Update - CA Water Plan | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 43 |
| 22 | SSO for pH in Tidal Wetlands | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 42 |
| 23 | Update - Climate Change & Water Resources Policy | 5 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 41 |
| 24 | Add BU for Limited Contact Recreation | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 39 |
| 25 | Modify Groundwater Recharge Beneficial Use | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 39 |

6. Available Resources

Non-TMDL Basin Planning resources for the San Francisco Bay Region consist of 2 personnel-years (PY). Available Planning Division staff over the next three years is thus estimated at 6 PY, pending any future budget changes.

For work planning purposes, Basin Plan amendments of low complexity are assumed to require 0.3 PY. This is the minimum resources required by Basin Plan projects due to the substantial process required, even after Basin Plan amendments are adopted at the Regional Water Board level. Medium complexity amendments are assumed to be between 0.6 to 1.2 PY, depending on whether substantial investigation work has already occurred on a project, including dedication of resources external to the Water Board (e.g., Complete Update of Significant Water Bodies and their Beneficial Uses has already been worked on, and was estimated at 0.6 PY). High complexity projects are assumed to require from 1.5 to 3.0 PY, depending on staff's judgment of the controversy that could be anticipated.

Planning Division staff believes that all issues in this Triennial Review represent issues that warrant investigation. Just because issues received lower ranking does not indicate that staff believes that the issue should not be addressed. This work planning exercise brings light to the systemic problem that numerous outstanding Basin Planning actions are warranted at this and other Water Boards, and the allocated staff resources do not align with the associated workload of Basin Planning.

The final Triennial Review Basin Plan project list was developed based on the top priority issues and available staffing, described above. The high priority projects will comprise the Basin Plan work plan for the San Francisco Bay Region for the next three years. It was based on ranking the issues, and considering the current availability of staff resources, including the 6.0 PY allocated to the Water Board for Basin Planning. In the San Francisco Bay Region, staffing for planning has historically been augmented by other sections or divisions in order to address outstanding issues that affect the particular part of the agency. In addition, other resources from external sources, for example U.S. EPA, help augment basin planning activities. This has been the case for the development of the Stream and Wetland Protection policy. Other resources, external and from other divisions of the Water Board, are assumed to augment the 6.0 PY by an additional 2.0-4.0 PY; thus 8.0 to 10.0 PY are estimated to complete Basin Planning projects.

Basin Plan issues that fall below the available PY are not eliminated from further consideration. For instance, in the event that projects take less staff time than estimated, more projects may be addressed in the next three years. Affected parties may also provide resources to address specific planning issues in partnership with the Water Board, recognizing that at least some Water Board staff time is necessary to accomplish such Basin Planning. Each year Water Board staff will develop an annual work plan for non-TMDL basin planning projects, coordinated with the statewide Basin Planning Roundtable, and use this prioritized list as a starting point.

7. Proposed Basin Plan Projects

Based on the ranking criteria and available resources, as described in previous sections of this staff report, the proposed list of issues to be included in the workplan in the next three years is:

- Complete Stream and Wetlands Protection Policy
- Complete Update of Significant Water Bodies and their Beneficial Uses
- Adopt U.S. EPA BEACH Act Marine Recreational Contact Water Quality Objectives
- Designate Beneficial Uses for Hayward Marsh
- Develop Bioassessment Objectives Implementation Plan
- Evaluation the Shellfish Harvesting Beneficial Use
- Develop Numeric Nutrient Water Quality Objectives
- Describe the ESL Tiered Decision Process
- Update based on the State Water Board's Water Recycling Policy

These projects are expected to require 9.6 PY or more to accomplish.

As internal or external resources are identified and targeted to Basin Planning over the next three years, the prioritized list reflected in Figure 1 and the project write-ups in Appendix B will provide guidance as to where to direct those resources.

APPENDIX A of Staff Report

PUBLIC NOTICE

AND

MEETING MINUTES OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SOLICITATION PERIOD
AND PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

TRIENNIAL REVIEW

WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN, SAN FRANCISCO BAY BASIN

April 25, 2008

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (Water Board) is initiating the triennial review process for the Water Quality Control Plan, San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan). The Basin Plan is the master policy document that contains descriptions of the legal, technical, and programmatic bases of water quality regulation in the San Francisco Bay Region, including water quality standards.

The purpose of the triennial review is to examine and update the focus of Water Board planning efforts, excluding TMDL projects. Section 13240 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and Section 303 (c)(1) of the federal Clean Water Act require a review of basin plans at least once each three-year period to keep pace with changes in regulation, new technologies, policies, and physical changes within the region.

A public workshop on the Basin Plan Triennial Review will be held:

DATE: Monday May 19, 2008
TIME: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
LOCATION: Elihu M. Harris State Building
2nd Floor, Room 10
1515 Clay Street
Oakland, California 94612

STAFF CONTACT: Naomi Feger, Senior Environmental Scientist
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 622-2328 (ph)
(510) 622-2460 (fax)
email: nfeger@waterboards.ca.gov

This notice solicits public input for the preparation of the Water Board's triennial review workplan, with written comments due to the above address on **May 30, 2008**. The Water Board is responsible for reviewing the Basin Plan, and is required to identify those portions of the Basin Plan which are in need of modification or new additions, and adopt standards as appropriate. The review includes a public workshop and a public hearing to allow the public to identify issues for the Water Board to consider for incorporation into its Basin Plan.

Appendix A
2009 Triennial Review Staff Report

An initial list of issues for inclusion in the Water Board's triennial review workplan has been prepared by Water Board staff. These issues include updates to beneficial uses, water quality objectives, implementation, and plans and policies. These projects include, but are not limited to:

1. Update of significant water bodies and their associated beneficial uses
2. Evaluation of beneficial use for municipal supply for groundwater aquifers along the Bay fringe
3. Designation of beneficial uses for Hayward Marsh
4. Evaluation of the shellfish beneficial use for San Francisco Bay
5. Stream and wetland systems protection
6. Adopt U.S. EPA Beach Act recreational contact standards
7. Develop site-specific objectives for dissolved oxygen in wetlands, slough channels and other shoreline habitats in San Francisco Bay
8. Refine Alameda Creek watershed TDS and chloride water quality objectives
9. Development of biocriteria
10. Marine debris

We encourage input from interested parties to assist planning staff in identifying and prioritizing Basin Plan amendment projects that will best address the water quality planning needs of our region. Identifying the scope, timing and critical nature of potential projects is important, as the Water Board is limited in terms of the staff resources that are available to complete Basin Planning projects. A brief description of all the issues being considered by Water Board staff can be found at

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public_notices/public_notice.shtml#basin

After public input is received, the Water Board adopts, by resolution, a priority list of Basin Planning projects to be investigated. The public hearing on the resolution is anticipated to occur in the Fall of 2008.

Triennial Review Solicitation Period:

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Solicitation Period Opens | Friday April 25, 2008 |
| Public Workshop | Monday May 19, 2008 |
| Final date for | |
| Submitting comments | Friday May 30, 2008 |
| Public Hearing | Fall 2008 |

AGENDA
BASIN PLAN TRIENNIAL REVIEW
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Room 10, 2nd Floor
California State Building, 1515 Clay St., Oakland, CA

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

May 19, 2008

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Introductions | All |
| 2. What is a Triennial Review? | Naomi Feger |
| 3. Water Board Staff Review of Issue Areas | Naomi Feger |
| a. Review of Water Quality Standards | |
| b. Implementation Plan updates | |
| c. Plans and Policies | |
| 4. Comments from Workshop Attendees and Discussion | All |

Basin Plan Triennial Review Public Workshop Summary of Public Comments/Questions

San Francisco Bay Water Board
Oakland, CA
May 19, 2008

I. Background

The San Francisco Bay Water Board (Water Board) staff is conducting its Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan). The Water Board held a public workshop from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Monday, May 19, 2008 at the Elihu Harris State Office Building. Approximately 20 representatives from public agencies, environmental organizations, and other members of the public attended.

The goals of the meeting were to:

1. Update stakeholders on the Triennial Review Process
2. Present general topics for consideration in the Triennial Review
3. Solicit comments from the public and regulated community on the potential scope of basin planning projects that should be priorities for Water Board staff.

Naomi Feger, Section Leader of Basin Planning for the Water Board opened up the workshop by reviewing the agenda, and providing an overview of the purpose of the workshop. She gave a presentation on the Triennial Review process and discussed the topics currently under consideration by staff as priority projects. An issue paper is available to the public, outlining the topics under consideration and can be found at the following website:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/basin_planning.shtml#triennialreview.

The presentation was followed by a question and answer/comment session. The public was encouraged to submit comments in writing by the close of business, May 30, 2008. It was made clear that the comments could be submitted by email and that the public was welcome to contact any of the Basin Planning Division staff present at the meeting (Naomi Feger, Janet O'Hara, or Michael Rochette) with questions.

II. Summary of questions, comments, and responses [where possible the commenter is identified by name]

Larry Johmann, Guadalupe Resource Conservation District - What are the criteria for adding a beneficial use for a particular water body?

Staff response – There are no defined criteria. Adding a beneficial use to the Basin Plan is based on an evaluation of information documenting existing uses for a water body. In terms of adding a specific beneficial use, it would depend on what information is available or what information could be acquired. As the update proceeds we will clarify the criteria and the public will have an opportunity to comment on whatever approach we develop as part of the basin plan amendment process. Steve Moore, former Board staff person and a current Board member, has done some

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work on this issue and drafted a memo detailing an approach to defining some of the beneficial uses. We will make this memo available to anyone that requests it.

Larry Johmann, Guadalupe Resource Conservation District - Does a beneficial use apply to an entire water body, or only a particular reach?

Staff response: a beneficial use can vary by reach. However, in the absence of defined beneficial uses, the tributary rule applies, which means that all upstream reaches have to be managed to protect downstream beneficial uses.

Nancy Yoshikawa, U.S. EPA – U.S. EPA is still concerned about issues relating to the MUN beneficial use as it applies to some creeks that are receiving waters for NPDES dischargers.

Staff response: This is one of the issues that we plan to address in the Beneficial Use update project.

Tom Hall, EOA, Inc. - Is there a workplan for the statewide shellfish harvesting beneficial use evaluation?

Staff response: A contract scope of work is being finalized by State Water Board staff and should be available soon. Staff will send the scope of work to Mr. Hall as soon as it is made available to them.

Nancy Yoshikawa, U.S. EPA - When will written comments be due on May 30?

Staff response: Comments are due COB, and may be submitted by email.

Comment - Please explain the relation between the Basin Plan and The California Water Plan update.

Staff response: We are working with the Department of Water Resources to provide them with information about issues in the region. After the update of the Water Plan is completed, we would figure out whether our region's Basin Plan needs any modifications to reflect the Water Plan.

Ken Minn, East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) – Mr. Minn would like to see the Basin Plan include language to address future shortages in water supply and make it easier to pursue water storage projects. Please elaborate on what can be done in the Basin Plan to make it easier to pursue water storage projects, such as EBMUD's recently permitted aquifer storage and recovery project.

Staff response: We can explore the possibility of amending the Basin Plan to address this concern. Tom Hall suggested looking at the Livermore/Amador Valley Salt Management Plan discussion in the Basin Plan, as a possible example.

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Larry Johmann, Guadalupe Resource Conservation District – Mr. Johmann asked about our proposed basin planning project to address marine debris. He asked if it would address debris in the creeks or only debris in the bay and suggested that we consider how the debris gets into the streams (storm drains, illegal dumping, homeless encampments, etc.)

Staff response: the goal of this project is to make it clear that the purpose of the prohibition is to protect aquatic life and to make clear the link between trash in the creeks and trash in the bay and the ocean.

Chris Sommer, EOA, Inc. – Mr. Sommers wanted to make it clear that there are efforts at the state level, through SWAMP, to establish a statewide Indices of Biologic Integrity (IBIs) and to encourage consistency between our project and state efforts.

Staff response: This project would be coordinated through our SWAMP coordinator, Karen Taberski, and thus will be consistent with State efforts.

Comment - How do we find out what additional water bodies will be identified and included in the Basin Plan?

Staff response: Please contact Jan O'Hara if you have specific questions. As the project develops there will be an opportunity to include public input.

Larry Johmann, Guadalupe Resource Conservation District - Comment - Will the Stream Protection Policy be folded in to the Basin Plan? Can issues concerning flow and beneficial uses be addressed in the Basin Plan.

Staff response: Yes, the stream protection policy will be a Basin Plan amendment once it is adopted and approved. In the proposed project there is a hydrologic connectivity water quality objective that would address flow and its effect on beneficial uses.

Comment - Please comment on staff resources.

Staff response: Our priority list of projects exceeds our available resources to complete it. We are allocated two staff from the State Water Board to work on Basin Planning, and we leverage resources from other divisions as well as resources outside of the agency, for example EPA and dischargers, to get projects completed. There is always the possibility that more resources will become available, so it's always in our interest to have a longer list. One ranking criterion for these projects is whether outside resources are available.

Comment - Is it your intent to carry forward the projects from the 2004 review?

Staff response: We have reviewed the original list of projects from the last Triennial Review and determined that except for those projects identified in the issue paper, the other projects are no longer necessary. Most of these projects are NDPES related and can be addressed through the permit process.

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Nancy Yoshikawa, U.S. EPA - Who will work on WET (whole effluent toxicity) provisions/protocols for NPDES permits; will that be the Region or the State?

Staff response: State Water Board staff is working with U.S. EPA to address the new statistical methods in development by U.S. EPA. California is one of seven state pilot projects evaluating these methods. State Water Board will work on modifying the SIP based on this effort.

Comment - What is your ranking for the projects you have identified thus far for the Triennial Review.

Staff response: We have not conducted any of the ranking effort.

Comment – How does the ranking process work? What are the criteria? Will there be a public process?

Staff response: The categories from the last triennial review are listed in the 2004 staff report. They include available staff and external resources; customer service; regional board mission; geographic scope; low controversy, low technical complexity; input from divisions.

Multiple Comments – The Basin Plan talks about surveillance and monitoring. Yet, there is nothing clear about enforcement actions to be taken when a beneficial use is severely impacted. How does a citizen report complaints/problems they see in the watershed? Often the person reporting on a problem doesn't hear whether it is addressed.

Staff response: Staff explained some of the steps we are taking internally to improve our reporting and notification procedures. We have a reporting form on our website. We are also reorganizing to create an enforcement unit.

Comment - How is Board staff interacting with DFG or USFWS when there is a spill event? How does spill response work? At what point do we work with the County District Attorney?

Staff response: DFG is generally the primary responder for oil spills. They have an Office of Spill Prevention and Response. We generally have a good working relationship with DFG and the USFWS. Agencies respond using the Incident Command System developed by the Coast Guard. We can and do refer cases to the District Attorney when we need to, and we give them the option of taking an action in lieu of us or along with us.

Karl Hans, U.C. Berkeley - Suggested a public database where people can log incidents and see the status of a complaint and response, as well as a history of which contractors have violations.

Larry Johmann, Guadalupe Resource Conservation District – Noted that the SCVWD has such a database but it's selective.

Staff response: This is something we can look into. However, some of the concerns being discussed, like fallen trees in the creeks, are under the jurisdiction of the local public works department. We do have a spill response database. We generally refer a complaint to a local

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inspector who should get back to the complainant. The Office of Emergency Services does have a public log of spills, but it doesn't include responses.

Comment - The Basin Plan has a role as an educational tool.

Staff response: we could consider adding more informative (as opposed to strictly regulatory) language to the Basin Plan.

Comment - When will we be able to receive hard copies of the Basin Plan of a fully updated Basin Plan?

Staff Response: The State Water Board is planning on providing resources to reformat all the regions' Basin Plans and updating them. In the meantime there are files posted on our website http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/basin_planning.shtml#2004basinplan that the public can print and download. We are also working to make it clear on the website which Basin Plan amendments have been approved.

III. Conclusion

Naomi Feger thanked everyone for coming and participating in the workshop.

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APPENDIX B

**RANK-ORDERED DESCRIPTIONS OF PROJECTS CONSIDERED IN THE
2009 BASIN PLAN TRIENNIAL REVIEW**

Appendix B – 2009 Basin Plan Triennial Review Staff Report Project Descriptions

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| ISSUE TITLE | 1. Complete Stream and Wetland Systems Protection Policy | |
| CATEGORY | Beneficial Uses | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | <p>This project is to complete the Stream and Wetland Policy currently under development. Staff has made considerable progress on this project, which was identified in the last Triennial Review as a high priority. The resulting Basin Plan amendment would protect stream and wetland systems, which include stream channels, wetlands, floodplains, and riparian areas. The amendment is expected to help protect and restore the physical characteristics of these systems, including their connectivity and natural hydrologic regimes, in order to protect beneficial uses. The proposed stream protection amendment would designate two beneficial uses of streams and wetlands, water quality enhancement and flood peak attenuation/flood water storage. These beneficial uses explicitly recognize that physical characteristics of water bodies contribute to better water quality, and need to be protected in the Board’s permitting programs in order to achieve the Board’s mission of protecting all beneficial uses of the Region’s water bodies.</p> <p>The proposed amendment may also include new water quality objectives, and an implementation plan that sets forth actions needed to attain the new water quality standards. The implementation plan will provide flexibility to account for a wide range of watershed conditions (e.g., degree of urbanization, watershed size, and surrounding land uses) and will establish a general framework for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating water quality impacts.</p> <p>A single Stream and Wetland Systems Protection Policy will be proposed for Basin Plan adoption in both the North Coast and San Francisco Bay Regions to improve regulatory consistency.</p> <p>The policy would be implemented by the Watershed Division via issuance of CWA Section 401 water quality certifications for projects requiring U.S. Army Corps of Engineers CWA Section 404 permits for fill of U.S. Waters and would also apply to regulation of local jurisdictions through NPDES permits for discharges of urban runoff.</p> | |
| PROPOSED BY: | Water Board | |
| SUPPORTED BY: | U.S. EPA Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 1 | GENERALIZED RANK: HIGH | |
| SCORE: 82 | COMPLEXITY: HIGH | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 2.0 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 2.0 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: WATERSHED | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 2. Complete the Update of Significant Water bodies and their Associated Beneficial Uses, Update Maps | |
| CATEGORY | Beneficial Uses | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | A number of the Region’s surface water bodies with substantial public interest are not specifically identified in the Basin Plan’s water body list. Such water bodies would be added and appropriate beneficial uses designated. Basin Plan maps would also be updated (Figures 2-3 through 2-9) to include the newly listed water bodies. This project is currently in progress as it was a prioritized project under the last Triennial Review. | |
| PROPOSED BY | Water Board | |
| SUPPORTED BY | Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association U.S. EPA Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District Ross Creek Neighbors | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 2 | GENERALIZED RANK: HIGH | |
| SCORE: 75 | COMPLEXITY: MEDIUM | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 0.6 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 2.6 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: PLANNING AND TMDL | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 3. Adopt U.S. EPA BEACH Act Marine Recreational Contact Criteria as Objectives | |
| CATEGORY | Water Quality Objectives | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | <p>U.S. EPA promulgated bacteriological indicator criteria (<i>1986 Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Bacteria</i>, “Water Quality Standards for Coastal and Great Lakes Recreation Waters” 69FR 67217 et seq. also 40 CFR part 131.41; effective date December 16, 2004) for protection of human health due to contact recreation that are more appropriate than the current Basin Plan objectives of total and fecal coliform. The criteria are based on enterococci. In 1986, the Water Board included the then-newly adopted U.S. EPA bacteriological criteria for reference (Table 3-2), but not as water quality objectives.</p> <p>Adoption of these criteria as objectives would also involve evaluating the appropriateness of the effluent limitations identified in Table 4-2. Current effluent limitations for bacteria are expressed as total coliform.</p> <p>Enterococci are commonly used as a bacterial indicator in sampling conducted as part of the beach monitoring program to assess safety for recreational contact, and the sampling results have been assessed by the U.S. EPA to support the listing of several beaches on this Region’s impaired water body list (303(d) list). In addition, enterococci were included as a water quality target in the Richardson Bay TMDL Basin Plan amendment adopted by the Water Board in July 2008.</p> <p>The U.S. EPA is currently in the process of developing new bacterial indicators to address some of the limitations of the existing indicators. That effort will take a few years and adoption of these criteria as objectives is appropriate. Staff has already begun the initial stages of this project.</p> | |
| PROPOSED BY | U.S. EPA | |
| SUPPORTED BY | Water Board Bay Area Clean Water Agencies Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association City of Sunnyvale | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 3 | GENERALIZED RANK: HIGH | |
| SCORE: 75 | COMPLEXITY: MEDIUM | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 0.6 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 3.2 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: PLANNING AND TMDL, NPDES, WATERSHED | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 4. Designate Beneficial Uses for Hayward Marsh | |
| CATEGORY | Beneficial Uses | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | <p>The Hayward Marsh is a 145-acre improved marsh system including three freshwater marsh basins (85 acres) and two brackish marsh basins (60 acres) at Hayward Shoreline Regional Park, adjacent to Lower San Francisco Bay. The three freshwater marsh basins (Basins 1, 2A, and 2B) are part of a wastewater treatment process and are not waters of the United States. The two brackish marsh basins (Basins 3A and 3B) are waters of the United States and do not have specified beneficial uses other than those beneficial uses generically established in the Basin Plan for wetlands in the Hayward area, including contact recreation. At issue is whether contact recreation is an existing use of Basins 3A and 3B and whether water quality objectives protective of contact recreational uses should apply. The Water Board issued an NPDES permit in May 2006 to Union Sanitary District requiring it to submit information regarding beneficial uses of Basins 3A and 3B. Union Sanitary District has submitted the required information. The Water Board would consider designating beneficial uses specific to Basins 3A and 3B as part of the Update of Beneficial Uses project or as a separate Basin Plan amendment.</p> | |
| PROPOSED BY | Water Board | |
| SUPPORTED BY | Union Sanitary District | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 4 | GENERALIZED RANK: HIGH | |
| SCORE: 73 | COMPLEXITY: LOW | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 0.3 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 3.5 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: NPDES | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 5. Development of Bioassessment Objectives - Implementation Plan | |
| CATEGORY | Water Quality Objectives | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | <p>Biological assessments provide direct measures of the cumulative response of the biological community to all sources of stress; they measure the condition of the aquatic resource to be protected. Biological objectives set the biological quality goal, or target, to which water quality can be managed, rather than the maximum allowable level of a stressor (pollutant or other water quality condition) that affects the aquatic life in that water body. Therefore, biological objectives are more integrative and environmentally relevant goals for the protection of aquatic life than objectives based on stressors that are currently in the Basin Plan. U.S. EPA is encouraging states to adopt biological objectives. Several states, such as Ohio and Florida, have done so and Water Boards in Southern California are currently in the process of incorporating biological objectives into their Basin Plans.</p> <p>In California, the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) has been actively involved in collecting the information needed to develop biological objectives. In the San Francisco Bay region, SWAMP has collected bioassessment data by monitoring watersheds in the Region. In addition, through the Bay Area Macro Benthic Invertebrate network (BAMBI^{net}), SWAMP has been collaborating with stormwater and other watershed monitoring programs to develop a Bay Area specific index of biotic integrity, referred to as an IBI.</p> <p>State Board has indicated its intention to develop statewide narrative biological objectives, thus this project would not duplicate that effort. Instead the Water Board would build on these objectives. Projects could include developing a San Francisco Bay specific implementation plan, or the development of tiered aquatic life beneficial uses.</p> | |
| PROPOSED BY | U.S. EPA | |
| SUPPORTED BY | State Water Board, Water Board Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association U.S. EPA | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 5 | GENERALIZED RANK: HIGH | |
| SCORE: 71 | COMPLEXITY: MEDIUM | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 1.5 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 5.0 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: PLANNING AND TMDL, WATERSHED | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 6. Evaluate the Shellfish Harvesting Beneficial Use | |
| CATEGORY | Beneficial Uses | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | <p>Most segments of San Francisco Bay are currently designated appropriate for commercial and recreational shellfish uses (SHELL). There are currently no commercial shellfish beds in San Francisco Bay. Commercial shellfish beds in the region are in Tomales Bay and along the coast at Point Reyes National Seashore. The Basin Plan identifies water quality objectives for shellfishing using a bacterial indicator, measured as fecal coliforms. The objective is based on protection of commercial shellfish beds for human health consumption. Studies are being conducted at the State Water Board to identify where recreational shellfish harvesting is currently occurring along the coast and within the estuary. This may result in a refinement of the spatial and temporal patterns of shellfish harvesting uses. The project may also include refinement of the beneficial use definition to distinguish between commercial and recreational shellfishing as well as the collection of information to support a reference/natural source implementation option for SHELL. Currently we are participating with other Regional Boards and the State Water Board in the development of the statewide project related to this beneficial use. A regional basin planning project would follow this statewide effort.</p> | |
| PROPOSED BY | Water Board | |
| SUPPORTED BY | Bay Area Clean Water Agencies Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association City of Sunnyvale | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 6 | GENERALIZED RANK: HIGH | |
| SCORE: 69 | COMPLEXITY: HIGH | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 2.0 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 7.0 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: PLANNING AND TMDL, NPDES | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 7. Numeric Nutrient Criteria | |
| CATEGORY | Water Quality Objectives | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | <p>The Basin Plan does not currently include numeric water quality objectives protective of nutrient related impairments, e.g., excessive algae growth (eutrophication), unnatural foam, odor, etc. associated with excessive nitrogen and phosphorous. To address impacts from eutrophication, U.S. EPA and the State Water Board developed a technical approach and framework for developing numeric nutrient endpoints (NNEs) for California waters. The scientific framework supports the development of numeric endpoints for a suite of biological response indicators (e.g., algal biomass, dissolved oxygen, water clarity, etc.) that are directly linked with beneficial uses. The State Water Board is in the process of evaluating the framework to support freshwater nutrient objective development to be adopted statewide. Pilot studies for the freshwater NNE framework have already been conducted and are undergoing peer review. Water Board staff would follow this effort and evaluate their application for fresh waters in the Region.</p> <p>In additional, a State Regional Technical Advisory Group has been established by State Water Board to support application of the framework to California estuaries. San Francisco Bay has been selected as one of the pilot estuaries for evaluation. The State Water Board has a three-year workplan with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP),m which will include participation by the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI). Water Board staff would participate in this State Water Board project.</p> | |
| PROPOSED BY | U.S. EPA | |
| SUPPORTED BY | Water Board, State Water Board | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 7 | GENERALIZED RANK: HIGH | |
| SCORE: 67 | COMPLEXITY: HIGH | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 2.0 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 9.0 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: PLANNING AND TMDL | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 8. Describe Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs) Tiered Decision Process for Groundwater Cleanups | |
| CATEGORY | Implementation | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | Staff would update the Basin Plan with a description of the tiered-decision process used to determine relevant exposure pathways and appropriate site cleanup levels using environmental screening levels (ESLs). The decision process expands the existing protection of groundwater beneficial uses to include potential risk to human health from indoor air exposure and protection of aquatic receptors. This update would not incorporate the current ESL criteria but rather the ESL approach. This would document our current process for screening sites using a multiple pathway conceptual model, which includes groundwater and surface water interactions. This project was included in the prioritized list in the last Triennial Review and some initial work, supported by the Toxics Division, has already been conducted. | |
| PROPOSED BY | Water Board | |
| SUPPORTED BY | | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 8 | GENERALIZED RANK: HIGH | |
| SCORE: 67 | COMPLEXITY: LOW | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 0.3 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 9.3 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: TOXICS, GROUNDWATER PROTECTION | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 9. Update Based on State Water Board's Water Recycling Policy | |
| CATEGORY | Update Implementation Plans | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | The Water Board acknowledges the importance of using recycled water to meet California's future water supply needs and would update language in the Basin Plan to reflect the State Water Board's recent policy on recycled water (Resolution 2009-0011) and other policies or statewide permits related to the use of recycled water. State Water Board's recycled water policy charges the Regional Water Boards with using their authority to the fullest extent possible to encourage the use of recycled water. This Board has adopted a General Water Reuse Permit, Order 96-011, which has been effective to date in encouraging reuse of recycled wastewater. | |
| PROPOSED BY | Water Board | |
| SUPPORTED BY | City of Sunnyvale Alameda County Water District | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 9 | GENERALIZED RANK: HIGH | |
| SCORE: 60 | COMPLEXITY: LOW | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 0.3 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 9.6 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: WATERSHED, PLANNING AND TMDL, NPDES | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 10. Marine Debris | |
| CATEGORY | Water Quality Objectives | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | <p>Land-based sources of trash and debris are negatively affecting beneficial uses of the Bay and its tributaries. Once transported to coastal and open oceans, the trash, in the form of marine debris, affects beneficial uses there, as well. Our current regulatory framework (narrative objectives and prohibitions) does not explicitly protect against the significant impacts to the Bay and ocean beneficial uses that result from the transport of land-based debris.</p> <p>To remedy this situation, staff would draft a Basin Plan amendment to establish narrative water quality objectives for marine debris protective of the bay and ocean beneficial uses and associated implementation actions necessary to attain and maintain these narrative objectives or consider revising the existing marine debris prohibition in the Basin Plan to specifically prohibit discharge of trash and debris to protect aquatic life.</p> | |
| PROPOSED BY | Water Board | |
| SUPPORTED BY | Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association U.S. EPA | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 10 | GENERALIZED RANK: MEDIUM | |
| SCORE: 59 | COMPLEXITY: HIGH | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 2.0 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 11.6 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: WATERSHED, PLANNING AND TMDL | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 11. Update Whole Effluent Toxicity Requirements | |
| CATEGORY | Water Quality Objectives | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | <p>U.S. EPA has requested that the Water Board change its acute toxicity program described in the Basin Plan. Currently, NPDES permit limits are based on evaluation of the 11-sample median and 90th percentile values for monitoring frequencies of monthly or more (Table 4-3). U.S. EPA has requested that acute toxicity testing protocols follow U.S. EPA's most recent guidance, which is currently the 5th Edition of Methods for Measuring the Acute Toxicity and Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater and Marine Organisms (EPA 821-R-012-012). The 5th Edition is already being implemented in NPDES permits in the Region.</p> <p>State Water Board staff is working on an Amendment to the Toxicity Control Provisions of the Policy for Implementation of Toxic Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California to address U.S. EPA's request. Staff is working with U.S. EPA to explore appropriate statistical endpoints for determining compliance. In addition to establishing numeric objectives for chronic and acute toxicity, this Policy will require a specific method for interpreting and reporting WET test data. The complexity of the project was ranked low because the Water Board's role would be limited.</p> | |
| PROPOSED BY | U.S. EPA | |
| SUPPORTED BY | State Water Board City of Sunnyvale | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 11 | GENERALIZED RANK: MEDIUM | |
| SCORE: 54 | COMPLEXITY: LOW | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 0.3 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 11.9 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: NPDES | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 12. Amend Wet Weather Flows Section | |
| CATEGORY | Update Implementation Plans | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | <p>The Basin Plan contains a conceptual approach for evaluating wet weather discharge conditions where polluted stormwater or process wastewater bypasses any treatment unit(s) that normally is used to treat the waste stream. This approach uses three levels of treatment to correspond to three levels of beneficial use protection (i.e., shellfish beds, public beaches).</p> <p>In 2007, the State Water Board found the wet weather permit and time schedule order (TSO) issued to the East Bay Municipal Utility District to be inconsistent with the Clean Water Act mandate that POTWs achieve secondary treatment, at a minimum. State Water Board Order 2007-0004 remanded the permit and TSO back to the Water Board for revision and directed the Water Board to amend the Basin Plan to delete language that conflicts with the Clean Water Act. The Water Board has adopted a revised permit, and a stipulated order, that no longer allows discharges from wet weather facilities to the Bay. This project would amend Section 4.9.2 and Table 4-4 of the Basin Plan to update the language.</p> | |
| PROPOSED BY | BayKeeper, State Water Board | |
| SUPPORTED BY | | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 12 | GENERALIZED RANK: MEDIUM | |
| SCORE: 53 | COMPLEXITY: LOW | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 0.3 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 12.2 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: NPDES | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 13. Editorial Updates | |
| CATEGORY | Editorial Revisions | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | <p>Make editorial non-regulatory changes that clarify or update some of the program descriptions to be consistent with new laws, plans and regulations or to correct minor errors. These changes are sometimes needed for clarity and to ensure that the public is informed about the latest requirements to protect water quality. These changes would be non-regulatory , i.e., they would not impose new requirements on permittees, but rather clarify existing regulatory requirements or program descriptions. For example, Chapter 7 was recently created in the Basin Plan to include Water Quality Attainment Strategies, such as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). Chapters 4 and 7 need to be aligned to account for already adopted TMDLs and future TMDL Basin Plan amendments.</p> <p>Suggestions were also made during the public workshop as to possible changes to the Basin Plan that could be considered non-regulatory. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update sections on toxicity to reflect current U.S. EPA requirements and references. • Update footnotes to Tables 3.3 and 3-4 to reflect U.S. EPA’s final tributyltin criteria adopted in 2003. Currently the draft criteria are reflected in the footnotes. • Chapter 5, State Plans and Policies: consider adding details about the policies and their enforcement. • Chapter 1, Introduction: Consider adding more detail. | |
| PROPOSED BY | Water Board | |
| SUPPORTED BY | Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association City of Sunnyvale City of San Jose U.S. EPA GCRCDC | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 13 | GENERALIZED RANK: MEDIUM | |
| SCORE: 53 | COMPLEXITY: LOW | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 0.3 per update | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 12.5 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: NPDES, PLANNING AND TMDL | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 14. Cadmium WQOs | |
| CATEGORY | Water Quality Objectives | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | <p>The State Water Board is proposing to amend the State Implementation Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California to establish water quality objectives for cadmium and related implementation methods. Based on the U.S. EPA’s revised cadmium criteria guidance, elements of the proposed amendment may include revised saltwater objectives and hardness-based equations solely for freshwater objectives.</p> <p>As background, in 2000, U.S. EPA promulgated the California Toxics Rule (CTR) to fully implement Clean Water Act section 303(c)(2)(B) in California. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found that the CTR freshwater and saltwater cadmium criteria were not protective of threatened and endangered species. State Water Board staff is planning on proposing adoption of U.S. EPA’s 304(a) revised recommended cadmium criteria for inland surface waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries. A CEQA scoping meeting on the objectives for cadmium took place in October 2008.</p> <p>If a method for implementation of the hardness-based equations for cadmium were adopted, implementation provisions for the other metals with hardness-based water quality criteria equations would likely be a logical extension of the project.</p> <p>Work on this issue in the region would likely be a non-regulatory update to the Basin Plan. In addition, staff would work with State Board to ensure regional issues are addressed.</p> | |
| PROPOSED BY | State Water Board | |
| SUPPORTED BY | | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 14 | GENERALIZED RANK: MEDIUM | |
| SCORE: 52 | COMPLEXITY: LOW | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 0.3 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 12.8 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: NPDES | | |

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| PROJECT TITLE | 15. Evaluate the Beneficial Use for Municipal and Domestic Supply for Groundwater Aquifers along the Bay Fringe | |
| CATEGORY | Beneficial Uses | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | Develop a region-wide policy for groundwater along the Bay fringe and underlying fill areas. Focus on the appropriateness of the domestic or municipal drinking water supply beneficial use designation in these areas that are typically characterized by low well yield and elevated total dissolved solids concentrations. Consider the exception criteria of Water Board Resolution 89-93 to evaluate the appropriateness of the beneficial use. | |
| PROPOSED BY | Water Board | |
| SUPPORTED BY | Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association Alameda County Water District | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 15 | GENERALIZED RANK: MEDIUM | |
| SCORE: 51 | COMPLEXITY: MEDIUM | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 1.2 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 14.0 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: TOXICS | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 16. Pentachlorophenol (PCP) Water Quality Objectives | |
| CATEGORY | Water Quality Objectives | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | <p>PCP criteria were included in the California Toxics Rule (CTR) of 2000. Subsequently, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service issued a Biological Opinion concluding that the U.S. EPA’s CTR water quality criteria for PCP are not protective of the early life stages of salmonid fish under conditions of low dissolved oxygen and high temperatures. The U.S. EPA has asked the State and this Water Board to identify where these aquatic conditions occur and to adopt the appropriate PCP water quality criteria.</p> <p>This project would develop a basin plan amendment to adopt the proposed more restrictive objectives for PCP and create a plan to implement the objectives where applicable to protect the early life stages of salmonids that may be present under conditions of low dissolved oxygen and high temperatures in the San Francisco Bay Region. Information is not available at this time to indicate where aquatic conditions occur in the Region that might pose a risk to salmonids.</p> | |
| PROPOSED BY | U.S. EPA | |
| SUPPORTED BY | | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 16 | GENERALIZED RANK: MEDIUM | |
| SCORE: 47 | COMPLEXITY: HIGH | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 3.0 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 17.0 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 17. Adopt U.S. EPA Freshwater Contact Recreation Criteria as Objectives | |
| CATEGORY | Water Quality Objectives | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | <p>The State Water Board is proposing a statewide policy for bacterial standards for water contact recreation in fresh waters. Elements of the proposed policy may include a revised indicator organism [<i>Escherichia (E.) coli</i> or enterococci] and risk protection level, and expansion and standardization of bacteria control implementation related to NPDES permits and TMDL development.</p> <p>As background to the proposed statewide policy, in 1986, U.S. EPA revised its ambient water quality criteria guidance for bacteria, recommending that the indicators of health risks from bacteria in fresh water be established as <i>E. coli</i>, instead of fecal coliform. At this time, State Water Board’s proposed policy will include water quality objectives for freshwater bacterial indicators and implementation procedures for the objectives.</p> <p>In addition, State Water Board is considering developing a statewide limited recreation contact beneficial use definition (Limited REC-1) and associated water quality objectives. The beneficial use of Water Contact Recreation would be divided into two subcategories based on the level of contact expected with various activities. The current definition of Water Contact Recreation (REC-1) could be limited to full immersion swimming. Incidental exposures associated with fishing or wading could fall under Limited Contact Recreation.</p> <p>CEQA scoping meetings were held by the State Water Board on this project in October 2008.</p> <p>This policy would supercede existing objectives in the Basin Plan. Work on this issue in the region would likely be a non-regulatory update to the Basin Plan. In addition, staff would work with State Water Board to ensure regional issues are addressed.</p> | |
| PROPOSED BY | State Water Board | |
| SUPPORTED BY | City of Sunnyvale | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 17 | GENERALIZED RANK: MEDIUM | |
| SCORE: 47 | COMPLEXITY: LOW | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 0.3 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 17.3 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: NPDES, PLANNING AND TMDL | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 18. Develop Site-Specific Objectives for Dissolved Oxygen in Tidal Wetlands, Slough Channels and Other Shoreline Habitats in San Francisco Bay | |
| CATEGORY | Water Quality Objectives | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | <p>The Basin Plan includes a minimum water quality objective for dissolved oxygen in all tidal waters of 5.0 mg/L downstream of the Carquinez Bridge; this objective was included in the 1975 Basin Plan and has not changed. The opportunities for restoration of unique habitats around the Bay margins have increased dramatically in recent years. These unique habitats include extensive tidal wetlands and slough networks as well as pans and other ponded areas. However, dissolved oxygen concentrations in shallow water habitats such as tidal wetlands and slough networks vary much more than in the main water mass of San Francisco Bay and frequently exhibit concentrations less than 5.0 mg/L. Because restoration efforts of habitats around Bay margins cannot consistently attain the Basin Plan’s dissolved oxygen objective of 5.0 mg/L and sloughs under natural conditions (e.g., Newark Slough) often show dissolved oxygen levels below this threshold, it is appropriate to explore the possibility of developing a site specific water quality objective or range of objectives for dissolved oxygen in tidal wetlands, slough channels and other shoreline habitats.</p> | |
| PROPOSED BY | Water Board | |
| SUPPORTED BY | | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 18 | GENERALIZED RANK: LOW | |
| SCORE: 46 | COMPLEXITY: HIGH | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 3.0 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 20.3 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: NPDES, WATERSHED | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 19. Low Risk Site Closure Requirements | |
| CATEGORY | Update Implementation Plans | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | Staff would develop policy to address closure for low-risk contaminant sites. Currently, Water Board staff's Groundwater Committee is working to develop an approach for closing solvent sites that pose a low-threat to the environment. This approach would be integrated with existing closure requirements for fuel sites into one policy in the Basin Plan. The benefit of developing this policy would be to allow staff to focus their attention on sites that pose the most threat to human health and the environment. The policy would also improve consistency in decision-making by providing guidance to Water Board staff, responsible parties, consultants, and other stakeholders, on determinations for no further active remediation (i.e., monitoring only) or no further action (i.e., site closure) or requests for additional work, including a higher degree of site characterization and/or remediation. | |
| PROPOSED BY | Water Board | |
| SUPPORTED BY | | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 19 | GENERALIZED RANK: LOW | |
| SCORE:44 | COMPLEXITY: MEDIUM | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 1.2 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 21.5 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: TOXICS, GROUNDWATER PROTECTION | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 20. Refine Alameda Creek Watershed Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and Chloride Water Quality Objectives | |
| CATEGORY | Water Quality Objectives | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | <p>The current surface water quality objectives for TDS and Chloride in the Alameda Creek Watershed above Niles (Table 3-7) were adopted in the 1975 Basin Plan. These objectives were established to protect groundwater resources used for drinking water. Specifically, they were intended to minimize salt buildup in the Livermore-Amador groundwater basin by limiting treated municipal wastewater discharges to the Alameda Creek watershed upstream of Niles, as surface waters recharge the Livermore-Amador groundwater basin. The objectives were based on historic South Bay Aqueduct (SBA) water quality and thus limited surface water discharges to salt concentrations no higher than those in SBA imports. The adoption of these objectives lead to the cessation of all POTW discharges to the Livermore-Amador groundwater basin by 1980.</p> <p>Other wastewater dischargers (e.g., aggregate mining operations) utilize Livermore-Amador groundwater in their operations and discharge salt from this groundwater into Alameda Creek and its tributaries. These discharges do not necessarily lead to salt buildup in the Livermore-Amador groundwater; however they are subject to water quality objectives in Table 3-7. With municipal wastewater discharges eliminated, these objectives may no longer be applicable. In reconsidering the Table 3-7 objectives, potential impacts to the Niles Cone groundwater basin (recharged by the Alameda Creek watershed downstream of Niles) must be considered. The surface water quality objectives would be reviewed and refined to reflect salt transport throughout the Alameda Creek system and conditions that best protect water supplies and other beneficial uses.</p> | |
| PROPOSED BY | Water Board | |
| SUPPORTED BY | Alameda County Water District | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 20 | GENERALIZED RANK: LOW | |
| SCORE: 44 | COMPLEXITY: HIGH | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 1.5 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 22.7 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: NPDES | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 21. The California Water Plan | |
| CATEGORY | Update Implementation Plans | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | <p>The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is preparing the California Water Plan Update 2009, utilizing a variety of venues and outreach to partner with other State agencies, federal agencies, tribal governments, statewide and local agencies, organizations, technical experts, and the public. Water Board staff have participated with DWR in its update of the California Water Plan to provide input on statewide policy issues and initiatives.</p> <p>Water Board staff would evaluate potential updates to the Basin Plan to integrate the recommendations of the Water Plan. It is anticipated that the Water Plan will focus on regional water issues with statewide impacts, data availability, lessons learned, best management practices and management strategies, with a strong emphasis on integrated regional water management and planning.</p> | |
| PROPOSED BY: | Water Board | |
| SUPPORTED BY: | East Bay Municipal Utility District | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 21 | GENERALIZED RANK: LOW | |
| SCORE: 43 | COMPLEXITY: MEDIUM | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 0.3 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 23.0 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: PLANNING AND TMDL | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 22. Develop Site-Specific Objectives for pH in Tidal Wetlands, Slough Channels and Other Shoreline Habitats in San Francisco Bay | |
| CATEGORY | Water Quality Objectives | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | This is similar to the project to develop site-specific objectives for dissolved oxygen in wetlands and other shore habitats in the Bay. The Basin Plan water quality objective for pH in surface waters is 6.5 to 8.5, and controllable water quality factors shall not cause changes greater than 0.5 units in normal ambient pH levels. Diurnal pH variation in marshes may be significantly greater than this objective. This project would explore the need for and possibility of developing a site-specific water quality objective for pH in tidal wetlands, slough channels and other shoreline habitats. | |
| PROPOSED BY | Mountain View Sanitary District | |
| SUPPORTED BY | Mountain View Sanitary District | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 22 | GENERALIZED RANK: LOW | |
| SCORE: 42 | COMPLEXITY: HIGH | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 1.2 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 24.2 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: WATERSHED, NPDES | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 23. Climate Change and Water Resources Policy | |
| CATEGORY | Update Implementation Plans | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | The Water Board is committed to reducing the impacts of climate change on our environment. We would review our existing policies and programs to track compliance with the State Water Board's September 2007 resolution on climate change and with other State laws as appropriate. | |
| PROPOSED BY | Water Board | |
| SUPPORTED BY | East Bay Municipal Utility District Alameda County Water District | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 23 | GENERALIZED RANK: LOW | |
| SCORE: 41 | COMPLEXITY: LOW | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): .3 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 24.5 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: PLANNING AND TMDL | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 24. Limited Contact Recreation (limited REC-1) | |
| CATEGORY | Beneficial Uses | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | <p>During the last Triennial Review this project was determined to be a low priority project as it was expected it would be addressed at the statewide level. State Water Board is working on this issue as part of its adoption of freshwater bacteria objectives. See Issue Title, <i>Adopt U.S. EPA Freshwater Contact Recreation Criteria as Objectives</i>, above for more details.</p> <p>The State Water Board’s policy development is anticipated to result in a limited contact recreation beneficial use definition. The project at the regional level would be to designate those water bodies where the beneficial use applies.</p> | |
| PROPOSED BY | City of Sunnyvale | |
| SUPPORTED BY | City of Sunnyvale | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 24 | GENERALIZED RANK: LOW | |
| SCORE: 39 | COMPLEXITY: HIGH | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 1.5 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 26.0 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: WATERSHED, PLANNING AND TMDL, NPDES | | |

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| ISSUE TITLE | 25. Modify Groundwater Recharge Beneficial Use | |
| CATEGORY | Beneficial Uses | |
| ISSUE SUMMARY | This project would consider the need to modify and expand the definition of the Groundwater Recharge beneficial use to include storage of drinking water in groundwater aquifers. The Basin Plan designates all groundwater basins as potential or existing drinking water sources. The State faces global climate change and associated hydrological changes, groundwater storage will become an increasing important water management tool, integral to helping the State meet its future water needs. Enhancing groundwater storage may be necessary to help the Region cope with climate change impacts. This project would explore modifying the groundwater recharge beneficial use to support storage of drinking water in groundwater aquifers. | |
| PROPOSED BY | East Bay Municipal Utility District | |
| SUPPORTED BY | East Bay Municipal Utility District | |
| PRIORITIZED RANK: 25 | GENERALIZED RANK: LOW | |
| SCORE: 39 | COMPLEXITY: HIGH | |
| ESTIMATED PERSONNEL-YEARS (PY): 2.0 | PY RUNNING TOTAL: 28.0 | |
| IMPLEMENTING DIVISION: GROUNDWATER PROTECTION, TOXICS, PLANNING | | |