

Why develop a Drinking Water Policy?

The Sacramento and San Joaquin River watersheds and the Delta provide drinking water for over two thirds of the people in California. Most of Southern California, a major portion of the San Francisco Bay Area, parts of the Central Coast, and many Central Valley communities rely on these watersheds for their drinking water. The Cascade and Sierra tributaries to the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers are high quality sources of drinking water. As the water flows out of the foothills and into the valley, pollutants from a variety of urban, industrial, agricultural and natural sources affect the quality of the water.

Drinking water agencies have long been concerned that water quality will deteriorate over time due to population growth in the Central Valley. Drinking water agencies are also interested in maintaining source water quality as the first barrier to contaminants that could endanger public health and because drinking water treatment requirements are increasingly based on the levels of constituents present in source water.

What are the proposed Policy elements?

- Narrative Water Quality Objective for *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* with implementation element
- Clarification of existing narrative objective for chemical constituents to include drinking water chemical constituents, such as organic carbon
- Recognition of the importance of a multi-barrier approach to public health protection
- Recognition of existing Basin Plan elements that protect drinking water
- Support of one-time special study for *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*

Why is *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* a concern in drinking water?

Cryptosporidium and *Giardia* are in surface waters from animal and human sources and can cause illness if consumed in drinking water. Sensitive sub-populations, such as immune-suppressed individuals, can be even more susceptible to illness. As levels of *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* in source waters increase, water treatment requirements become more stringent to account for the increased risk of illness, and the cost for drinking water treatment increases.

How will the narrative *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* objective be implemented?

The proposed policy includes an implementation element to specifically address the interpretation of the proposed narrative objective for *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* using numeric triggers tied to USEPA's drinking water requirements based on *Cryptosporidium* concentrations.

Who was involved in the Central Valley Drinking Water Policy Work Group?

Representatives from federal and state agencies; and from drinking water, wastewater, municipal storm water and agricultural interests.

Next Steps

- Deadline for written comments: May 15, 2013
- Board hearing to consider adoption of the Policy: July 25 or 26, 2013

For more information, please contact:

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Policy website:

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



Surface Water Drinking Water Policy Hearing

April 11, 2013
8:30 a.m.

Central Valley Regional Water Quality
Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Drinking Water Policy

The Central Valley Water Board proposes to amend the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins (Basin Plan) to add a Drinking Water Policy for surface waters of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) and upstream tributaries below their first major dams. A timeline below identifies major milestones of the proposed policy. More detailed information about the proposed policy is located on the opposite page.

