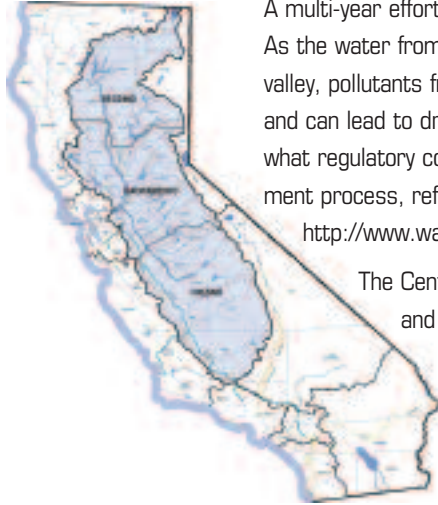


Developing a Central Valley Drinking Water Policy

FACT SHEET **update #1—September 2006**



A multi-year effort is currently underway to develop a drinking water policy for surface waters of the Central Valley. As the water from the tributaries to the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers 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 and can lead to drinking water treatment challenges and potential public health concerns. For more information on what regulatory controls are currently in place for drinking water protection and the initial steps in the policy development process, refer to the original Fact Sheet located at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/available_documents/dw-policy/index.html.

The Central Valley Drinking Water Policy Workgroup (Workgroup), comprised of interested stakeholders and technical experts, has initiated the technical work that will lead to adoption of a policy as a Basin Plan amendment in 2009.

What tasks have been completed?

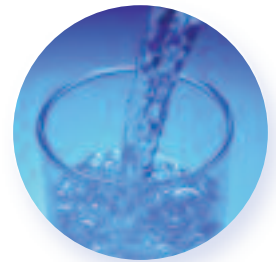
- The Workgroup selected high priority drinking water constituents of concern on which to focus this effort: organic carbon, nutrients, pathogens, and salinity.
- Available data for the priority constituents was collected and compiled into a comprehensive database.
- Conceptual models for organic carbon and nutrients have been developed and pathogen and salinity conceptual models are being developed. These models will be used to identify data gaps and select analytical modeling tools.

What is the status of current and ongoing tasks?

- Additional data are being collected and incorporated into the database.
- Using recommendations from the conceptual models, the Workgroup is developing a monitoring plan to fill key data gaps. Monitoring will be conducted for one year.
- The Workgroup is reviewing and evaluating a range of source water quality goals and drinking water treatment effectiveness for the priority constituents. This information will be used to support the development of new water quality objectives for priority constituents, to provide background and justification for the basin planning process, and to evaluate effective control strategies to improve water quality.
- Workgroup members conduct stakeholder outreach on an ongoing basis.

What tasks will be conducted in the future?

- After monitoring has been completed and data have been analyzed, initial pollutant load evaluations will be refined using analytical modeling tools.
- Pollutant load evaluations will be used to identify major sources of constituents of concern and to evaluate potential source and drinking water treatment control strategies.
- Policy language, including an implementation plan, will be developed and incorporated into the Basin Plan as a Basin Plan amendment.
- Ongoing outreach efforts to include affected and interested stakeholders.



Timeline



How will the drinking water policy address emerging contaminants like endocrine disrupting compounds?

The drinking water policy will provide a framework for evaluating emerging water quality issues in the future. The framework relies on the triennial Basin Plan review process for identifying new issues that should be addressed through revisions to the Basin Plan. The framework can be found in the technical memo: "Drinking Water Policy Constituent Prioritization Summary" available on the Regional Water Board's Website (see link at bottom of page).

How will the policy address anticipated future conditions like growth in the Central Valley and changes in treated drinking water regulations?

The Workgroup intends to build a five-year review into the policy at which time new information will be assessed to determine the need to update the policy's program of implementation. In addition, the Regional Water Board is required to review the Basin Plan standards every three years. During the triennial review staff will consider changes in source water quality and drinking water regulations as well as additional data on drinking water constituents of concern.

Will the drinking water policy address groundwater issues?

The drinking water policy is focused on surface water. Groundwater issues present a different set of needs and challenges that are being addressed by other Regional and State Water Board programs. In addition, during the 2006 triennial review of the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basin Plan the Regional Water Board prioritized development of groundwater surveys and a policy to control discharges to groundwater.

How can I get information about the drinking water policy as it develops?

Subscribe to the e mail listserv at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lyrisforms/reg5_subscribe.html

Documents are available on the Internet at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/available_documents/dw-policy/index.html

Workgroup members also are available to make presentations at stakeholder meetings.

Whom can I contact for more information or to get involved?

Karen Larsen, CVRWQCB

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Timeline

2006

Water Quality
Monitoring

Model Development

2007

Analytical Modeling

Complete Technical
Studies

2008

Begin Basin Plan
Amendment Process

2009

RWQCB
Adopts Policy

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