

Development of a Central Valley Drinking Water Policy

Public Workshop

CA Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley

11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200

Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Tuesday, October 3, 2006

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

A multi-year effort currently is underway to develop a drinking water policy for surface waters in the Central Valley. As the water from the tributaries to the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers flow 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, leading to drinking water treatment challenges and potential public health concerns. Drinking water quality is regulated by several state and federal agencies under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act and the state Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. However, current policies and plans lack water quality objectives for some drinking water constituents of concern, such as disinfection by-product precursors and pathogens, and there is concern that those policies and plans do not include implementation strategies to provide effective drinking water source protection. Surface waters of the Central Valley provide drinking water supply to over two-thirds of California's population. Updating existing policy will provide greater protection for the drinking water beneficial use.

Additional information regarding the development of a Central Valley Drinking Water Policy can be found on the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/available_documents/dw-policy/index.html.

In 2002, the Central Valley Drinking Water Policy Workgroup (Workgroup) was formed to help Regional Water Board staff develop and implement a work plan for conducting technical studies necessary to develop a drinking water policy for the Central Valley. The Workgroup is comprised of stakeholders representing agriculture, stormwater, wastewater, drinking water suppliers, public health, and environmental interests. To date the Workgroup has collected and compiled existing data on high priority drinking water constituents of concern (i.e., nutrients, organic carbon and bromide, pathogens, and salt), developed conceptual models using the available data, and conducted extensive stakeholder outreach.

The intent of this workshop is to update interested stakeholders and the general public on the status of development of the drinking water policy and related efforts and to obtain input.

Regional Water Board Members may be in attendance at this workshop; however, no formal actions will be conducted at this workshop.

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	Agenda Item	Time
I	Introduction/Agenda Review – Karen Larsen, CVRWQCB	9:00
II	Background – Karen Larsen, CVRWQCB Presentation of the need for and background of the policy development effort.	9:10
III	Technical Studies Panel	
	1. Overview of Technical Studies – Elaine Archibald, CUWA	9:30
	2. Conceptual Models for Organic Carbon, Nutrients, and Pathogens – Sujoy Roy, Tetra Tech	9:45
	3. Conceptual Model for Salinity – Sam Harader, CBDA	10:15
	4. Technical Studies Q&A	10:30
Break – 10:45		
IV	Policy Development Panel	
	1. Basin Plan Amendment Process & Schedule – Betty Yee, CVRWQCB	11:00
	3. Relationship of Drinking Water Policy to CALFED Program – Lisa Holm, CBDA	11:15
	4. Policy Issues to be Addressed & Next Steps – Karen Larsen	11:30
	5. Policy Development Q&A	11:45
Lunch 12:10		
IV	Central Valley Salinity Management Plan – Jim Martin, CVRWQCB The Regional Water Board is leading a multi-agency effort to develop a plan for managing salinity in the Central Valley. This item is to update drinking water quality stakeholders on this effort.	1:10
V	Research, Monitoring, and Modeling Collaboration – The Workgroup collaborates with several agencies to acquire and share data and modeling tools. The following groups will present updates on their ongoing studies related to drinking water quality.	1:40
	1. Delta water quality fingerprinting, DSM2 – DWR	
	2. BMPs to reduce microbial contamination from rangeland and irrigated pastures – Rob Atwill, UC Davis (presentation not available electronically)	
	3. Developing and testing rangeland BMPs that account for temporal and spatial variability of transport of DOC and nutrients – Anthony O’Geen, UC Davis	
BREAK – 2:40		
	4. Isotopic and chemical mass balance approach to characterize and differentiate sources of organic matter and nutrients from different land uses in the San Joaquin River – Carol Kendall, USGS (presentation not available electronically)	
	5. Quantifying amount of groundwater accretions to the lower San Joaquin River and its nitrate and organic carbon concentrations – Charlie Kratzer, USGS (presentation not available electronically)	
	6. Quantifying and understanding how organic material produced in the Willow Slough watershed is transformed into DOC and exported and what practical measures may be used to reduce that export to protect drinking water – Brian Pellerin, USGS (presentation not available electronically)	
	7. Monitoring existing water quality at San Luis National Wildlife Refuge – Will Stringfellow, UOP	
VI	Participant Discussion, Questions, and Input – Karen Larsen, CVRWQCB	4:00
VII	Wrap-up – Karen Larsen, CVRWQCB	4:50
ADJOURN – 5:00		