

Pesticide Basin Plan Amendment

Dan Sussman, Environmental Scientist
California Regional Water Quality Control Board,
Lahontan Region

July, 2009



Agenda

1. Pesticide Water Quality Objective
 - What is the problem?
 - Possible Solutions
 - Pesticide Use
2. CEQA Scoping

Existing Water Quality Objective

“Pesticide concentrations, individually or collectively, **shall not exceed the lowest detectable levels**, using the most recent detection procedures available. There shall not be an increase in pesticide concentrations found in bottom sediments. There shall be no detectable increase in bioaccumulation of pesticides in aquatic life.” (Basin Plan, p. 3-5)

3

Possible Approaches

1. Replace Pesticide Water Quality Objective w/ Discharge Prohibition that allows exceptions under certain circumstances.
2. Conditional Variance to water quality objectives under certain circumstances.
3. Re-write Water Quality Objective
 - Use existing numerical targets (DTSC MCLs) coupled with updated narrative language protective of beneficial uses (e.g., R5)
4. No change

4

Potential Circumstances

- Public Health & Safety
 - Vector Control (ex: West Nile Virus – Mosquito)
 - Municipal Supply (ex: nuisance – Algae)
- Preservation of Ecological Integrity
 - Aquatic Invasive Species control
 - Endangered species recovery



5

Vector Control



Image: James Gathany, CDC

Vector Control



Potential Circumstances

- **Public Health & Safety**
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- **Preservation of Ecological Integrity**
 - Aquatic Invasive Species control
 - Endangered species recovery

Aquatic Invasive Plants

Eurasian watermilfoil



Curlyleaf pondweed



Aquatic Invasive Species



Shortest Timeline for BPA

1. Scoping (July 2009)
2. Draft amendment (September 2009)
3. Peer Review (November 2009)
4. Public Review (December 2009 - January 2010)
5. BPA to Lahontan Board (March 2010)
6. State Board, OAL approval (September 2010)
7. USEPA approval (November 2010)

11

Questions or Comments

12



**Pesticide Basin Plan
Amendment**
CEQA Scoping Meeting



Agenda

1. Pesticide WQ Objective
2. CEQA Scoping
 - Purpose
 - What is the “project”?
 - Identify reasonably foreseeable significant adverse environmental impacts

15

Purpose of Scoping

Solicit public feedback to help guide environmental analysis of our Basin Plan Amendment

Identify reasonably foreseeable significant adverse environmental impacts from this Basin Plan amendment.

16

Defining the Project

Project is:

- adoption of a Basin Plan Amendment
- a program level regulatory change

Project is not:

- a project level action
- chemical specific

17

Water Board Environmental Review

The Basin Plan Amendment for the pesticide water quality objective is the project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The CEQA document analyzing the Basin Plan Amendment, including environmental checklist, is a Substitute Environmental Document (SED), functionally equivalent to a Negative Declaration or EIR.

18

The CEQA Process

1. Project scoping meeting under the California Environmental Quality Act (today)
2. Release of environmental analysis and draft Basin Plan Amendment for public comment (Late Fall 2009)
3. 45-day public comment period following release of documents
4. Adoption of the Basin Plan Amendment at a public hearing before the Water Board

19

Considerations for Today's Meeting

Consider reasonably foreseeable adverse impacts of potential actions given exemption to proposed aquatic pesticide prohibition

The CEQA process requires discussion of:

- Environmental issues
- Alternative solutions to the problem
- Potential negative impacts
- Economic factors

20

Checklist Categories

- I. AESTHETICS
- II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES
- III. AIR QUALITY
- IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES
- V. CULTURAL RESOURCES
- VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS
- VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
- VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY
- IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING
- X. MINERAL RESOURCES
- XI. NOISE
- XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING
- XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES
- XIV. RECREATION
- XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC
- XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS



Checklist: Example Category

ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS -- Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Potential Impacts Analyzed in Environmental Documentation

Will Consider:

Direct physical changes in the environment

Reasonably foreseeable indirect changes

Will not consider:

Speculative changes

Changes with effects already considered

Changes that would occur regardless of the amendment

23

We welcome your comments

To ensure that scoping comments are considered, they must be received in writing at the Water Board by:

August 31, 2009

Send comments to:

Daniel Sussman

Lahontan Water Board

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South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

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Phone: 530-542-5466

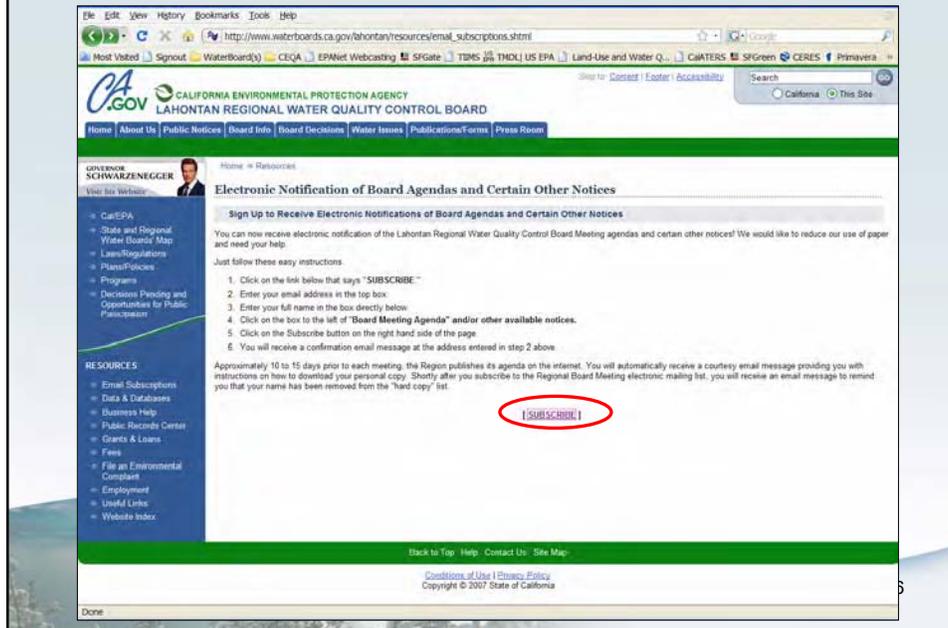
Website: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/Lahontan/>

24

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CA.GOV CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

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Please check the boxes below to select the email list(s) you would like to subscribe to. After making your selection(s), please click on the subscribe button located at the upper right hand corner.

An email confirmation notice will be sent to you. Please reply to this message in order to be added to the email list.

Green Planning - Regional

Basin Plan Prohibition Exceptions - All

Basin Plan Prohibition Exceptions - Tahoe only

Basin Plan Prohibition Exceptions - Truckee only

Board Meeting Agenda

Leishan Mine Cleanup

Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Hinkley Chromium Cleanup

Resort at Squaw Creek Monitoring and Reporting Plan

Timber Waver and Related Regulations

TMDLs - 2003(d) List (Impaired Waters)

TMDLs - Lake Tahoe

TMDLs - Truckee River Sediment

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(Updated 4/2009)

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Questions/CEQA Scoping Comments

29