

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY  
CONTROL BOARD  
SAN DIEGO REGION

2004 BASIN PLAN TRIENNIAL REVIEW  
TECHNICAL REPORT

September 8, 2004

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (Basin Plan) designates beneficial uses for water bodies in the San Diego Region, and establishes water quality objectives and implementation plans to protect those beneficial uses. The terms “water quality objectives” and “beneficial uses” are referred to in federal law as “water quality standards.”

Both State and federal laws mandate the periodic review and update of Basin Plan water quality standards. State law requires that State policy for water quality control and water quality control plans (basin plans) be reviewed periodically [California Water Code section 13143, section 13240]. Federal law [Clean Water Act section 303(c)(1)] requires that a state’s water quality standards be reviewed every three years, i.e., triennially. The periodic review of the Basin Plan required by State and federal law is commonly referred to as the “Triennial Review.”

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (Regional Board) has completed the 2004 Triennial Review of the Basin Plan documented in this report. Section 1, Introduction, summarizes the purpose of the Triennial Review and the process the Regional Board followed in soliciting public comments on the need to review and revise the Basin Plan. Section 2.0, Ranking Process, describes the process the Regional Board used to evaluate and rank each issue submitted, and compile the *Prioritized 2004 Basin Plan Triennial Review Issue List*. Section 3, Resource Estimates, analyzes the Personnel Years (PY) and dollar resources to investigate the issues and adopt Basin Plan amendments. Section 4, Results and Conclusions, explains how the issue rankings and resource estimates determined the *Prioritized List of Basin Plan Issues for Investigation from September 2004 to September 2007*.

The Regional Board reviewed 125 issues submitted by the public and the Regional Board. Duplicate issues were deleted and similar issues were combined. In total, 62 issues were evaluated and ranked to compile the *Prioritized 2004 Basin Plan Triennial Review Issue List*. Planning resources are available over the next three years (September 2004 – September 2007) to investigate the top seven issues on the Prioritized 2004 Basin Plan Triennial Review List. These 7 issues were compiled into the *Prioritized List of Basin Plan Issues for Investigation from September 2004 to September 2007*. The three-year resource projection for basin planning is \$387,000. Investigation of the first seven issues listed in Table 1 is projected to cost \$344,000.

To formally complete the Triennial Review, the Regional Board must adopt Tentative Resolution No. R9-2004-0156, *Resolution Approving the 2004 Basin Plan Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Region and Adopting a Prioritized List of Basin Plan Issues*. This Resolution includes findings regarding the requirements for and the intent of the Triennial Review, relevant actions taken (public hearing, issues evaluated), and the prioritized list of issues to be investigated that may lead to Basin Plan amendments in the upcoming three years. As discussed above, the issues comprising the prioritized list of Basin Plan issues are those with the highest rankings, and for which dollar resources are available over the next three years to undertake and complete investigations of the issues.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (Basin Plan) designates beneficial uses for surface and ground waters in the San Diego Region, and establishes water quality objectives and implementation plans to protect those beneficial uses. The Basin Plan was first adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (Regional Board) in 1974 pursuant to California Water Code (Water Code) section 13240 and the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) section 303(c). The Regional Board has adopted approximately 43 Basin Plan amendments over the years since 1974 to address changing water quality conditions and priorities. The Basin Plan was extensively updated in 1994 and readopted by the Regional Board.

Both State and federal laws mandate the periodic review and update of basin plans. State law requires that State policy for water quality control and water quality control plans (basin plans) be reviewed periodically [Water Code section 13143, section 13240]. Federal law [CWA section 303(c)(1)] requires that a state's water quality standards<sup>1</sup> be reviewed every three years, i.e., triennially. The periodic review is appropriately called the "Triennial Review."

The primary purpose of the Triennial Review is to review water quality standards (i.e., water quality objectives and beneficial uses) and take public comment on issues the Regional Board should address in the future through the Basin Plan amendment process. The Triennial Review is not a Basin Plan amendment. During the Triennial Review process public comment is considered on what Basin Plan water quality issues the Regional Board should investigate over the next three years. The Regional Board develops and adopts a prioritized list of Basin Plan issues that may be investigated by the Regional Board over the next three years. The inclusion of an issue on the prioritized Triennial Review list of issues does not necessarily mean that any amendment will be made to the Basin Plan. The decision on whether or not to proceed with a Basin Plan amendment is only made after the Regional Board reviews the technical and legal considerations associated with an issue and determines that development of a Basin Plan amendment is appropriate for further consideration.

The Regional Board has completed its 2004 Triennial Review of the Basin Plan. The Triennial Review was initiated by public notice dated January 28, 2003, and a letter dated February 3, 2003, soliciting public comments on the need to review and revise the Basin Plan. Written comments on water quality standards or other Basin Plan issues were received during a 43-day period beginning January 31, 2003, and closing March 14, 2003. The Regional Board also conducted a public workshop on March 3, 2003. A copy

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<sup>1</sup> The term "water quality standard" in the CWA section 303(c) refers both to designated beneficial uses and numeric and/or narrative criteria to protect those uses. Additionally, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) considers an antidegradation policy to be part of a water quality standard.

of the Notice of Public Solicitation Period and Public Workshop for Basin Plan Triennial Review, and the February 3 letter are contained in Appendix A. Approximately 125 candidate Basin Plan issues were submitted by the public and the Regional Board for inclusion on the priority list. In total, 62 issues were evaluated and ranked to compile the *Prioritized 2004 Basin Plan Triennial Review Issue List* (Appendix B). The name of and summary of each issue is included on this list. The summaries provided give brief characterizations of the issues. The specific scope and language for each issue will be determined later if the issue is investigated after the Triennial Review. Opportunities for public participation on individual issues will be available at that time, during the investigative phase. Following a detailed review of all issues submitted, the Regional Board developed a prioritized list of Basin Plan issues needing investigation, and if appropriate, Basin Plan amendments during the upcoming 3-year period from September 2004 to September 2007.

This report includes a description of the methodology used by the Regional Board to evaluate and rank each issue, a description of each issue evaluated, 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.

To formally complete the 2004 Triennial Review, the Regional Board must adopt Tentative Resolution No. R9-2004-0156, *Resolution Approving the 2004 Basin Plan Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Region and Adopting a Prioritized List of Basin Plan Issues* (Appendix C). The Resolution includes findings regarding the requirements for and the intent of the Triennial Review, and relevant actions taken (public hearing, issues evaluated). Attached to the Resolution is the *Prioritized List of Basin Plan Issues for Investigation from September 2004 to September 2007*. The issues on this list may lead to Basin Plan amendments in the upcoming three years.

A public workshop and a public hearing on the Triennial Review were held on May 26, 2004, and June 10, 2004, respectively (Appendix A). The purpose of the workshop and hearing was to solicit public comment and testimony on the Triennial Review. Following the close of the hearing, the Regional Board considered and prepared written responses to the comments received compiled in the Response to Comments Report. Tentative Resolution No. R9-2004-0156 was revised to reflect the public comment and Regional Board direction.

## 2.0 RANKING PROCESS

During the public comment period the Regional Board received approximately 125 candidate Basin Plan issues for inclusion on the *Prioritized 2004 Basin Plan Triennial Review Issue List* (Appendix B). A ranking process was devised to prioritize the candidate basin plan issues. Ultimately, each issue was assigned a numerical score and prioritized according to that score. Prior to ranking, duplicate issues were deleted and similar issues combined. The requester associated with each issue is identified in Appendix B. After eliminating duplication and combining like issues, 62 candidate basin plan issues remained (Table 1).

The issues were then grouped by category: (1) Beneficial Use, (2) Water Quality Objective, (3) Implementation – Plan, (4) Implementation – Discharge Prohibition, (5) Implementation – Monitoring Strategy, (6) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), and (7) Other. Once categories were assigned, the ranking evaluation began. The flow chart in Figure 1 summarizes the steps followed in ranking the issues.

### 2.1 Initial Screening Process

As a first step all issues were screened using the list of eight questions shown in the *Initial Questions Form* (Table 2). Questions A, B, or C were used to identify issues already considered a high priority for a Basin Plan amendment by the Regional Board. These issues included text changes to the Basin Plan that would make it current, complete, and accurate such as adding previously unnamed waterbodies and issues involving changes in State or federal laws and regulations that dictate the need for a Basin Plan amendment. Questions D, E, F, G, or H were used to identify 1) issues that could be addressed in a separate Regional Board water quality program outside of the basin planning process, or 2) issues that were not within the Regional Board’s regulatory or legal authority. Any issue that produced a “yes” answer to questions A, B, or C received an initial ‘high’ priority classification and was later scored to determine its final ranking on the list of issues. Any issue that produced a “yes” answer to questions D, E, F, G, or H was removed from further ranking. Any issue that answered “no” to all eight questions was subsequently scored as described below. A completed *Initial Questions Form* for each issue screened out, answering yes to one of the initial questions, is in Appendix E.

### 2.2 Technical Ranking Process

#### Ranking of Issues Screened Out by Initial Questions A, B or C.

The Basin Plan issues screened out by Questions A, B, and C in the *Initial Questions Form* (Table 2) were given an initial ‘high’ priority. Because so many issues received a high priority by receiving a yes answer to Initial Questions A, B, or C the issues were further evaluated and given a numerical score to determine their rank. See Section 2.5 for a detailed discussion on how scores were assigned.

Ranking of Issues Screened Out by Initial Questions D, E, F, G, or H

The Basin Plan issues that were screened out by Questions D, E, F, G, or H in the *Initial Questions Form* (Table 2) were removed from further ranking or consideration. They were placed at the end of prioritized issue list, in positions 49-62. The order of these issues on the list is based on the question that screened the issue out. For example, the first removed issue listed in position No. 49 is a TMDL proposal screened out by question D. The issue numbers of the issues screened out by questions D through H are for identification purposes and do not represent a ranking.

Any issue receiving a “No” answer to all eight questions shown in the *Initial Questions Form* (Table 2) was assigned a numerical score based on various factors described in the *Technical Ranking Form* (Table 3). The Ranking Process is described in Appendix D, which contains a detailed list and discussion of the categories and factors. The factors included a subjective assessment of the degree to which the issue addressed the core elements of an effective Basin Plan: accurate designation of beneficial uses, scientifically based water quality objectives and effective implementation plans and policies for achieving the water quality objectives (Water Code section 13050(j)). The issues were also evaluated from other perspectives including: public interest in the issue, the geographic scope of the issue (i.e. did the issue address a single water body or multiple water bodies region-wide), and the perceived impact on water quality that would result from adoption of a basin plan amendment pertaining to the issue. Each issue was first evaluated in the category that most closely fit the issue. For example, issues involving water quality objective modifications were evaluated in the water quality objective category and the factor that best fit was scored. If a category did not apply, zero points were scored.

The categories in the Technical Ranking Form are described in the matrix below:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>
1 – Formally Adopted SWRCB* Plans and Polices.	Identified issues that addressed conformance with SWRCB plans and policies.
2 - Beneficial Uses.	Identified issues that addressed the addition, modification, or deletion of a beneficial use.
3 – Water Quality Objective.	Identified issues that addressed the addition, modification, or deletion of a water quality objective.
4 - Implementation – Policy.	Identified issues that addressed addition or modification of a Basin Plan implementation policy.
5 - Implementation – Discharge Prohibition.	Identified issues that addressed addition, modification, or deletion of a discharge prohibition.

6 - Implementation – Monitoring Strategy.	Identified issues that addressed addition or modification to a water quality monitoring strategy.
7 – Stakeholder/Partnership Resources.	Identified issues that included a commitment of stakeholder resources towards collection, coordination, or development of water quality data.
8 – Geographic Scope.	Identified the level of impact the issue will have ranging from a local improvement to a region-wide improvement.
9 - Significance of Water Quality Issue.	Identified issues that addressed aspects of water quality not found explicitly in the Water Code definition and not directly addressed in Categories 1 - 8.
10 - Social Considerations.	Identified issues that addressed the social aspects of water quality.
11 - Other Considerations.	Identified issues that were well thought out, and have public, Regional Board, SWRCB, or USEPA support.

\*State Water Resources Control Board

### 2.3 Assignment of Issue Score

The first six categories on the *Technical Ranking Form* (Table 3) represent elements that are the core elements of an effective Basin Plan. Each issue was scored in the appropriate category based on a subjective judgment as to the improvement to the Basin Plan that would result from investigation and adoption of a Basin Plan amendment and the issue’s conformance to the Regional Board mission statement. The sum of the first two column scores were multiplied by a factor of 1, 3, or 5 based on a subjective judgment of how closely the issue supported the Regional Board mission statement in column 3. The matrix below summarizes this process.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Applicability +	Improve Basin Plan	* Regional Board Mission	= Score

Categories 7-11 on the *Technical Ranking Form* (Table 3) addressed other perspectives for scoring the issues including public interest in the issue, the geographic scope of the issue (i.e. did the issue address a single water body or multiple water bodies region-wide), and the perceived impacts on water quality that would result from adoption of a Basin Plan amendment pertaining to the issue. Points were given based only on the applicability of each factor. Improvement to the Basin Plan and conformance to the Regional Board mission statement were not used in the scoring of these points.



The matrix below summarizes this process.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Applicability			= Score

The scores in column 4 from all eleven categories were added to obtain one total score. These scores were used to develop the point ranges for each of the generalized ranks described below.

#### 2.4 Assignment of Generalized Rank to Each Issue

After scores had been assigned to those issues that went through the technical ranking process, the point scores were evaluated and point ranges for generalized ranks of high, medium, low were established. The resulting point ranges are described in the matrix below.

Point Ranges	Generalized Rank
≥ 100	High
70-99	Medium
≤ 69	Low

A completed *Technical Ranking Form* for each issue that was technically ranked is in Appendix F.

#### 2.5 Assigning Scores to Issues Determined to be High Priorities Based on Initial Questions A, B, or C.

The issues that were determined to be high priorities under Questions A, B, or C in the *Initial Questions Form* (Table 2) were evaluated a second time in order to assign them a numerical score and determine their relative rank. This step was necessary because so many issues (25 of 62) were determined to be a high priority based on Questions A, B and C. Numerical scores had to be assigned to these issues so they could be ranked relative to each other and to the issues that were scored in the technical ranking process.

Using best professional judgment, each issue was assigned a generalized ranking of high, medium or low, and assigned the lowest score of the category. An issue assigned a high general rank received a base score of 100, an issue assigned a medium general rank received a base score of 70, and an issue assigned a low general rank received a base score of zero. Additional points were added to the base score in consideration of several factors including 1) the benefit the Regional Board would derive from a Basin Plan Amendment on the issue, 2) the Regional Board’s legal authority to adopt a Basin Plan amendment on the issue, 3) the geographic scale of the issue (i.e. affects single waterbody or waterbodies region wide), and 4) the perceived level of public interest in the issue.

A completed Initial Question Form for each issue that received an initial ‘high’ priority is in Appendix E. Technical Ranking Forms were not completed for these issues.

### 3.0 RESOURCE ESTIMATES

A requirement of the Triennial Review process is to estimate the personnel year and dollar resources required to investigate and adopt Basin Plan amendments for the prioritized issues. Once calculated, the estimates were used to determine the number of issues from the prioritized list that could be investigated with existing resources over the next three-year period (September 2004 – September 2007). These issues as well as their resource estimates were compiled in the *Prioritized List of Basin Plan Issues for Investigation from September 2004 to September 2007*. This list is Attachment 1 to Tentative Resolution R9-2004-0156 (Appendix C). This section explains how the resource estimates were calculated.

#### 3.1 Basin Plan Funding Allocation

The Regional Board is allocated approximately \$129,000 each fiscal year to evaluate and complete Basin Plan amendments. This dollar amount approximates 1.69 personnel years (PYs). The term “personnel years” refers to the actual or estimated portion of a position expended for the performance of work. For example, a full-time position, which was filled by an employee for one year, would result in an expenditure of 1.0 PY.

#### 3.2 Resource Estimate to Evaluate Issues and Complete Basin Plan Amendments

The resource estimate for investigation and adoption of basin plan amendments for all issues prioritized during the 2004 Basin Plan Triennial Review is approximately \$8,068,000.00 or 106 PYs. This greatly exceeds the resources allocated to the Regional Board for Basin Plan work activities. Based on the Regional Board’s \$129,000 (1.69 PY) per fiscal year funding allocation, the Regional Board will only have a total of \$387,000 (5.07 PY) to evaluate and complete Basin Plan amendments over the next three years. Accordingly the Regional Board will only be able to initiate work on the top seven issues prioritized in the Triennial Review over the next three years. The Regional Board’s funding allocation and estimation for investigation and adoption of basin plan amendments are summarized in the matrix below:

	<b>Annual Basin Planning Resource Allocation</b>	<b>Total Basin Planning Resource Allocation for Upcoming Three Years</b>	<b>Resources Needed to evaluate and complete Requested Basin Plan Amendments</b>
Funding Dollars	\$129,000	\$387,000	\$8,068,000
Personnel Years (PY)	1.69	5.07 PY	106 PY

**Table 1**

## **List of Issues**

<b>Issue No</b>	<b>Issue Name</b>
35	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) Water Quality Objectives for the Santa Margarita Hydrologic Unit
36	Basin Plan Introduction
37	California Toxic Rule
38	Assimilative Capacity and Mixing Zones
39	Cleanup and Abatement Policy
40	Potential Versus Existing Beneficial Uses
41	SWAMP Narrative
42	Precautionary Principle
43	Designation of South San Diego Bay as an Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS)
44	Beneficial Uses Designated in Chollas Creek
45	Beneficial Uses of Shallow "Urban" Groundwater
46	Beneficial Uses along the Southern Boundary of the Salt Creek Area
47	Beneficial Uses of Loveland and Sweetwater Reservoirs
48	Desalination Plants
49	Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) in Laguna Canyon, Aliso, Salt, and San Juan Creeks
50	Interactive Database System with GIS Component for San Diego Ambient Monitoring Program (SDAMP)
51	Electronic tracking system for 401 and 404 Permit Certification
52	Waste Discharge Requirement Policy - Waiver #4
53	Water Quality Objective for Flow
54	Water Quality Objectives for Invasive Species
55	Water Quality Objective for Fish Tissue
56	Prohibition of Recreational Vehicle (RV) Wastes into Campground Septic Systems
57	Environmental Justice Policy
58	Beneficial Uses in the Santa Margarita Hydrologic Unit
59	Water Quality Objectives for Seasonal Flow Conditions
60	Factors Listed in California Water Code Section 13241
61	Procedures for Beneficial Use Designation and Dededesignation
62	Non-Point Source Water Quality Objectives

In order to determine reasonable resource estimates for each issue, two main elements were evaluated: 1) the complexity of each issue and 2) the steps necessary to successfully complete a Basin Plan amendment. Issues that were removed by the Initial Question screening were not evaluated for resource estimates. A degree of complexity (high, medium or low) was assigned to each issue. A highly complex issue requires more resources than a simpler, less complex issue. The complexity of an issue was based on several factors including the amount of supporting data or information submitted or known to exist on the issue, the level of research required to understand the issue and formulate the appropriate Basin Plan amendment, the level of public interest surrounding the issue, and professional judgment. The steps necessary to successfully complete a Basin Plan amendment are lengthy. The steps were broken into three parts; investigation, Basin Plan amendment preparation and Basin Plan amendment adoption. Appendix G lists all the steps leading to a Basin Plan amendment and resource estimates for issues involving high, medium or low complexity.

A summary of estimated budgets to investigate and process Basin Plan amendments based on the issue complexity is shown in Table 4. A highly complex issue requires a significant amount of research to investigate the substance of the requested Basin Plan change. The investigation involves an evaluation of the need for a Basin Plan amendment and the desired results and goals of the proposed amendment; an evaluation of potential significant adverse environmental effects resulting from adoption of the Basin Plan amendment; and an analysis of the reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts of methods to comply with any proposed performance standard or treatment requirement. This analysis must take into account a range of environmental, economic and technical factors and is resource intensive. After a proposed Basin Plan amendment is developed additional time is necessary to draft the amendment language and go through the formal Basin Plan amendment process including preparation of documents for review and approval by the SWRCB and the Office of Administrative Law. Completion of a highly complex Basin Plan amendment is estimated to cost approximately \$278,000 and take just over 3.65 PYs. Conversely, an issue of low complexity would require far less research, perhaps have less public controversy and involvement, and take less staff resources to go through the formal basin plan amendment adoption and approval process. Completion of a low complexity issue is estimated to cost approximately \$72,000 and take just under 1 PY to complete.

### **3.3 Triennial Review Issue Evaluation**

In order to promote the most efficient use of the limited basin planning resources available, the Regional Board's approach over the next three years will be to investigate only those issues identified by the Regional Board in Tentative Resolution No. R9-2004-0156. The issues will generally be investigated in sequential order and multiple issues may be grouped for consideration in a single Basin Plan amendment. If the Regional Board determines it should not proceed with a Basin Plan amendment on an issue, the remaining resources for that issue will be redirected to begin investigation work on the next highest ranked issue. As resources allow we will continue to work down the prioritized list (i.e. priority 8, 9, 10, ect.) should the first seven issues be completed

before the next triennial review. If, after adoption of Tentative Resolution No. R9-2004-0156, a new basin planning issue is presented to the Regional Board or new resources become available applicable to an existing listed issue, that issue may be considered by the Regional Board for prioritization or reprioritization, and /or resource allocation on a case by case basis.

## **4.0 RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS**

A total of 62 Basin Plan issues were reviewed and prioritized during the 2004 Basin Plan Triennial Review. Some of the issues were determined not to be appropriate for a Basin Plan amendment. An analysis of the resources needed to investigate and adopt Basin Plan amendments for appropriate issues showed that approximately 106 personnel years (PYs) are needed to investigate and adopt Basin Plan amendments for all the issues. At the rate of 1.69 PYs per fiscal year, 63 (sixty three) years are needed to complete Basin Plan amendments for all issues submitted for consideration.

In any given fiscal year at the current level of funding we would start at the top of the prioritized list and work on issues at the rate of 1.69 PYs per year for three years. Basin planning resources are available over the next three years to investigate the top seven issues on the Prioritized 2004 Basin Plan Triennial Review Issue List (Appendix B). The three-year resource projection for available basin planning dollars is \$387,000. Investigation of the first seven issues listed in Appendix B is projected to cost \$344,000.

The top seven issues were compiled in the *Prioritized List of Basin Plan Issues for Investigation from September 2004 to September 2007* and attached to Tentative Resolution No. R9-2004-0156 (Appendix C) for consideration by the Regional Board. The cost projection only considered investigation estimates and did not include the resources needed to prepare and adopt a Basin Plan amendment for the issue. If a Basin Plan amendment is prepared, resources may not be available to investigate all seven issues listed in the attachment to the Resolution. Further, resources may be needed during the upcoming three-year period to work on other Basin Planning tasks, such as the ongoing investigation of a Basin Plan amendment proposed by the Santa Margarita Water District needed to facilitate a water reclamation project in the San Mateo Canyon Hydrologic Subarea, participation in the RTAG process, and the new Basin Planning Roundtable.

Staff recommends that the Regional Board adopt Tentative Resolution No. R9-2004-0156.

## **5.0 TABLES AND FIGURE**

### **TABLES**

1. List of Issues
2. Initial Questions Form
3. Technical Ranking Form
4. Resource Estimate Summary

### **FIGURE**

1. 2004 Basin Plan Triennial Review Evaluation Flow Chart

**Table 1**

## **List of Issues**

<b>Issue No</b>	<b>Issue Name</b>
1	Electronic Format of Basin Plan
2	Onsite Sewage Treatment System Regulations
3	Unnamed or Unidentified Waterbodies and Table Corrections
4	Basin Plan Map
5	Source or Criteria for Water Quality Objectives
6	Compliance Time Schedules in NPDES Permits
7	Water Quality Objectives for Bacteria Indicators
8	Essential Text Updates
9	Dissolved Oxygen Water Quality Objective in Surface Waters
10	Water Quality Objective for Nitrate in Ground Water
11	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) Management Plan and Water Quality Objective for Chloride
12	Beneficial Uses for a REC-1 Subcategory
13	Copper and Lead Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)
14	Potable Water Releases to Land
15	Department of Water Resources Ground Water Basin Map
16	Water Quality Objective for Chlorine
17	Water Quality Objective for Fluoride
18	Beneficial Use RARE - Threatened and Endangered Species Found in Vernal Pools
19	Beneficial Use Designations for RARE, BIOL, SPWN & MIGR
20	Pollution Prevention Policy
21	Water Quality Objectives by Water Body
22	Section 401 Water Quality Certification Policy and Procedures
23	Beneficial Use of San Diego Formation
24	Water Quality Objective for Nutrients in Surface Waters
25	Water Quality Objective for Hydromodification
26	Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI)
27	Erosion and Sediment Control Policy
28	Water Quality Objective for Floating Material
29	Watershed Management Chapter
30	Seasonal Opening of Coastal Lagoon Mouths
31	Water Quality Objective for Copper at Shelter Island Yacht Basin
32	Beneficial Use Ground Water Recharge (GWR) in the San Luis Rey River Watershed
33	General Stream Flow Diversion and In-Stream Treatment Policy
34	Constructed Wetlands Policy

**Table 1**

## **List of Issues**

<b>Issue No</b>	<b>Issue Name</b>
35	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) Water Quality Objectives for the Santa Margarita Hydrologic Unit
36	Basin Plan Introduction
37	California Toxic Rule
38	Assimilative Capacity and Mixing Zones
39	Cleanup and Abatement Policy
40	Potential Versus Existing Beneficial Uses
41	SWAMP Narrative
42	Precautionary Principle
43	Designation of South San Diego Bay as an Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS)
44	Beneficial Uses Designated in Chollas Creek
45	Beneficial Uses of Shallow "Urban" Groundwater
46	Beneficial Uses along the Southern Boundary of the Salt Creek Area
47	Beneficial Uses of Loveland and Sweetwater Reservoirs
48	Desalination Plants
49	Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) in Laguna Canyon, Aliso, Salt, and San Juan Creeks
50	Interactive Database System with GIS Component for San Diego Ambient Monitoring Program (SDAMP)
51	Electronic tracking system for 401 and 404 Permit Certification
52	Waste Discharge Requirement Policy - Waiver #4
53	Water Quality Objective for Flow
54	Water Quality Objectives for Invasive Species
55	Water Quality Objective for Fish Tissue
56	Prohibition of Recreational Vehicle (RV) Wastes into Campground Septic Systems
57	Environmental Justice Policy
58	Beneficial Uses in the Santa Margarita Hydrologic Unit
59	Water Quality Objectives for Seasonal Flow Conditions
60	Factors Listed in California Water Code Section 13241
61	Procedures for Beneficial Use Designation and Dedications
62	Non-Point Source Water Quality Objectives



**Table 2**

**2004 Basin Plan Triennial Review  
Initial Questions Form**

<b>Issue Number:</b>	
<b>Issue Name:</b>	
<b>Category:</b>	
<b>Submitted By:</b>	

<b>INITIAL QUESTIONS</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>A.</b>	Is the issue an administrative clarification or update to existing text in the Basin Plan?	High Rank	Ask Question B
<b>B.</b>	Is the issue a SWRCB, USEPA or court ordered mandate or is it required by state or federal statute?	High Rank	Ask Question C
<b>C.</b>	Does the issue involve designating beneficial uses or water quality objectives for waterbody(ies) previously unidentified or unnamed in the Basin Plan?	High Rank	Ask Question D
<b>D.</b>	Is the issue a TMDL?	Removed	Ask Question E
<b>E.</b>	Can the issue be addressed by a Regional Board program without a basin plan amendment?	Removed	Ask Question F
<b>F.</b>	Does the issue fall primarily under the purview of another regulatory agency thus not requiring a basin plan amendment?	Removed	Ask Question G
<b>G.</b>	Is the issue currently underway or has it already been addressed or completed?	Removed	Ask Question H
<b>H.</b>	Is the proposed change to the Basin Plan prohibited by state or federal laws or regulations?	Removed	Go To Technical Rank Process

**If the answer is "No" to each of the above questions, the issue will be evaluated using the Technical Ranking Form.**

**Discussion**

**Table 3**

**2004 Basin Plan Triennial Review  
Technical Ranking Form**

<b>Issue Number:</b>	
<b>Issue Name:</b>	
<b>Issue Topic:</b>	
<b>Submitted By:</b>	

See Appendix D of the 2004 Basin Plan Triennial Review Technical Report for a detailed description of the technical ranking form.

Criteria	(Column 1 + Column 2) x Column 3 =			Score	
	Applicability	Improve Basin Plan	Regional Board Mission		
	1	2	3	Score	
	Yes - 1 No - 0	High - 5 Medium - 3 Low - 1 Not at All - 0	High - 5 Medium - 3 Low/No - 1		
<b>1. Formally Adopted SWRCB Plans and Policies</b>					
a. Issue describes a change needed to make Basin Plan conform with State Board plans or policies.					
b. Issue describes how State Board plans or policies are implemented within the San Diego Region.					
<b>2. Water Quality Data</b>					
a. Issue describes water quality data indicating need for addition, modification, or deletion of a beneficial use designation(s).					
b. Issue describes water quality information that indicates a need for addition, modification, or a deletion of beneficial use designation(s).					
c. Issue describes revision of a beneficial use definition.					
<b>3. Water Quality Objective</b>					
a. Issue describes a change in water quality criteria indicating need for addition, modification, or deletion of water quality objective(s).					
b. Issue describes water quality data indicating need for addition, modification, or deletion of water quality objective(s).					
c. Issue describes water quality information that indicates a need for addition, modification, or deletion of water quality objective(s).					
d. Issue describes change in beneficial use designation or definition indicating need for addition, modification, or deletion of water quality objective(s).					
<b>4. Implementation - Policy</b>					
a. Issue addresses identification of background water quality.					
b. Issue clarifies existing Regional Board procedures or administration of regulatory programs.					
c. Issue addresses enforcement.					
d. Issue addresses water reclamation.					
e. Issue addresses non-point source control programs including applicability and acceptance of management practices.					
f. Issue addresses waiver policy amendment or update to the types of waivers granted.					
g. Issue addresses issuance of NPDES permits including stormwater runoff permitting.					
h. Issue addresses issuance of WDRs for discharges to groundwater.					
i. Issue addresses issuance of WDRs for discharges of irrigated agricultural return flows.					

**Table 3**

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j. Issue addresses establishment of water quality based effluent limitations.				
k. Issue addresses criteria for determining compliance with effluent limitations and water quality objectives.				
l. Issue addresses specified types of discharges, including agricultural runoff, erosion control, and vessel waste.				
m. Issue describes/clarifies implementation, application, or interpretation of water quality objectives.				
n. Issue addresses development of a policy that provides guidance on development and implementation of a TMDL.				
<b>5. Implementation - Discharge Prohibition</b>				
a. Issue involves addition, modification, or deletion of a discharge prohibition.				
b. Issue establishes criteria under which exceptions to a prohibition may be granted.				
<b>6. Implementation - Monitoring Strategy</b>				
a. Issue describes ambient monitoring strategy.				
b. Issue describes the types of self monitoring required under WDRs and NPDES permits.				
c. Issue describes special project monitoring.				
d. Issue describes Regional Board compliance/inspection monitoring.				

Criteria	Column 1 = Score			Score
	Applicability 1	Improve Basin Plan 2	Regional Board Mission 3	
	High/Yes - 5 Medium - 3 Low - 1 No - 0			

<b>7. Stakeholder/Partnership Resources (high, medium, low, no)</b>				
a. Stakeholders propose to collect, coordinate, or develop all data, information, or technical studies needed to support issue.				

<b>8. Geographic Scope</b>				
a. Issue is of Region Wide scale (5 pts).				
b. Issue is of multiple Hydrologic Units/Watersheds scale (3 pts).				
c. Issue is of single watershed/waterbody scale (1 pt).				

<b>9. Significance of Water Quality Issue (yes, no)</b>				
<b>Issue will directly address and/or impact one or more:</b>				
a. Regional priority.				
b. Key projects in SWRCB Strategic Plan.				
c. Public health issue.				
d. Rare and endangered species.				
e. Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS).				
f. Sensitive aquifer.				
g. CWA 303(d) listed waterbody.				

**Table 3**

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<b>h.</b> Waters with suspected impairment.			
<b>i.</b> Related to a TMDL currently under development.			
<b>j.</b> Waters actively used for a drinking water supply.			
<b>10. Social Considerations (yes, no)</b>			
<b>Level of:</b>			
<b>a.</b> Public interest, community acceptability, political interest.			
<b>Issue will directly address and/or impact:</b>			
<b>b.</b> Water body intensively used by the public.			
<b>c.</b> Environmental justice.			
<b>d.</b> Water reclamation.			
<b>e.</b> Waters of outstanding statewide significance or waters of exceptional recreation or ecological significance.			
<b>11. Other Considerations (high, medium, low, no)</b>			
<b>a.</b> Proposal presentation.			
<b>b.</b> Proposal readiness.			
<b>c.</b> Issue submitted by more than one interested party.			
			<b>Total Score</b>

**Discussion**

**Table 4**

## Resource Estimate Summary

<b>Complexity</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>PYs</b>	<b>Dollars</b>
Lower Complexity	Investigation	0.34	\$25,835
Lower Complexity	Basin Plan Amendment	0.61	\$46,473
Lower Complexity	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>\$72,308</b>
Medium Complexity	Investigation	1.77	\$135,028
Medium Complexity	Basin Plan Amendment	1.03	\$78,309
Medium Complexity	<b>Total</b>	<b>2.79</b>	<b>\$213,337</b>
High Complexity	Investigation	2.48	\$189,186
High Complexity	Basin Plan Amendment	1.17	\$89,287
High Complexity	<b>Total</b>	<b>3.65</b>	<b>\$278,473</b>

<b>Basin Plan Task Code</b>	<b>PY Allocation</b>	<b>Dollars Allocation</b>
401	0.66	\$50,602
402	1.03	\$78,534
<b>Total/ 1 year</b>	<b>1.69</b>	<b>\$129,136</b>
<b>Total/ 3 years</b>	<b>5.07</b>	<b>\$387,408</b>

## 6.0 APPENDICES

- A. Notices of Public Solicitation Period, Public Workshops, and Public Hearings on Basin Plan Triennial Review
- B. Prioritized 2004 Basin Plan Triennial Review Issue List
- C. Tentative Resolution No. R9-2004-0156, *Resolution Approving the 2004 Basin Plan Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Region and Adopting a Prioritized List of Basin Plan Issues*
- D. Ranking Process
- E. Completed Initial Question Forms
- F. Completed Technical Ranking Forms
- G. Resource Estimate Detail