

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Richard Looker)  
MEETING DATE: November 14, 2012

**ITEM:** 6

**SUBJECT:** **2012 Triennial Review of the San Francisco Bay Basin Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) - Adoption of Resolution and Prioritized List of Basin Planning Projects**

**CHRONOLOGY:** July 2009 – Most recent Triennial Review Resolution adopted

**DISCUSSION:** This item is for the Board to consider adoption of a Resolution and Prioritized List of Basin Plan Issues that may result in amendments to the Basin Plan. This package includes the Tentative Resolution and proposed prioritized list and descriptions of Basin Plan issues (Appendix A), the supporting Triennial Review Staff Report (Appendix B), written comment letters received (Appendix C), and our responses to those comments (Appendix D).

The Basin Plan is the master policy document for the Water Board, establishing water quality standards, which consist of beneficial uses for all waters in the Region, the water quality objectives necessary to protect those uses, and the implementation plans, policies, and programs designed to meet the standards. The Triennial Review is conducted to meet State Water Code and federal Clean Water Act requirements. The Triennial Review provides the opportunity to review the water quality standards and identify portions of the Basin Plan that need to be updated or modified to improve the efficiency and environmental protection associated with permitting and other programs. Since we only have two funded positions for Basin Plan activities, the Triennial Review also provides a means to set priorities for focus of our staff resources.

We began the Triennial Review process in late 2011, reviewing the status of the list of Basin Plan issues identified during the 2009 Triennial Review, and identifying new issues for consideration. In March 2012, we produced a “Brief Issue Descriptions” paper, describing potential priority projects, held a stakeholder workshop, and asked stakeholders for their input. We also included our priorities for Basin Plan amendments to establish Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for pollutants causing impairment of waters in the Region. Stakeholders provided input towards developing and refining a list of 25 proposed Basin Plan issues and the associated ranking criteria scores for prioritizing the issues. However, we received no comments on the TMDL priorities. The Triennial Review Staff Report includes a summary of the public participation process, description of the ranking criteria, and the list, descriptions, and rankings of the issues.

The top priority Basin Plan issues, excluding TMDL projects, include the following:

- Complete Stream and Wetlands Protection Policy
- Develop Nutrient Water Quality Objectives
- Develop and Implement Biological Objectives
- Develop Dissolved Oxygen Site-Specific Objectives
- Amend Wet Weather Overflow Policy
- Update Toxicity Testing Requirements
- Develop Regulatory Strategy for Contaminants of Emerging Concern

The Tentative Resolution and Staff Report were circulated to interested parties on September 7, 2012. We received three comment letters. U.S. EPA supports the priority projects included in the Tentative Resolution, but encourages us to continue involvement with other projects as staff and external resources become available. The Westlands Water District and the State Water Contractors, Inc., support the high priority of the Nutrient Water Quality Objectives and provide comments for consideration as that project is developed. The North Marin Water District requests that cold water habitat and contact recreation be removed as designated beneficial uses of Stafford Lake Reservoir since fishing and swimming in the Reservoir are prohibited. However, such a change cannot be made via a minor administrative revision as proposed by the District.

The small number of written comments is not an indication of limited stakeholder interests. As noted above, we solicited and received input from many stakeholders in the development of the list of priority projects. We will continue to consider project-specific concerns raised by stakeholders during the Triennial Review process and further engage stakeholders as these Basin Plan projects progress.

**RECOMMEN-  
DATION:**

Adopt the Tentative Resolution and List of Prioritized Basin Plan Issues

**APPENDICES:**

- A. Tentative Resolution and List of Prioritized Basin Plan Issues
- B. Triennial Review Staff Report
- C. Comment Letters
- D. Responses to Comments