



State Water Resources Control Board



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
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Executive Office

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

JAN 14 2010

To: Interested Persons

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SOLICITATION OF WATER QUALITY DATA AND INFORMATION FOR 2012 CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED REPORT – SURFACE WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT AND LIST OF IMPAIRED WATERS [Clean Water Act Sections 305(b) and 303(d)]

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), by way of this Notice, initiates the solicitation period for interested persons to submit data and information regarding water quality conditions in surface waters of California (*please note that groundwater data should not be submitted*). Information gathered will be used for assessing overall surface water quality conditions and identifying impaired waters (waters not meeting water quality standards), for the development of the 2012 California Integrated Report. This Notice contains the contact information for the State Water Board staff, instructions to follow when submitting data and information to the State Water Board, and a form to be completed that should accompany all submitted data and information. Data and information submitted should **not** be limited to only those data sets that show water quality standards being exceeded. Data that show standards **are** being met should also be submitted as they will contribute to a complete understanding of the quality of the State's surface waters. **All submittals must be received by the State Water Board no later than 5:00 p.m., June 30, 2010.**

Background Information: Integrated Report

States are required to develop a report on overall surface water quality and a list of impaired surface waters or water quality limited segments (distinct portions of rivers, streams, lakes, ocean waters, etc.) identifying relevant pollutants/stressors and to submit the information to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) every two years. These requirements are contained in the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) Sections 305(b) and 303(d).

CWA section 305(b) requires that States provide an overall water quality condition assessment of surface waters of the State to serve as part of the USEPA National Water Quality Inventory Report to Congress and is used to inform water quality management decisions. This report is referred to as the "Section 305(b) Report on Water Quality", the "Section 305(b) Report", or the "Surface Water Quality Assessment."

CWA section 303(d) requires that States provide lists of water bodies not meeting water quality standards (beneficial uses, water quality objectives/criteria or the State's Anti-

California Environmental Protection Agency

degradation Policy) and waters that are not expected to meet water quality standards with the implementation of technology-based controls. This list is commonly referred to as the "Section 303(d) List" or the "List of Impaired Waters. All readily available data and information submitted pursuant to this solicitation will be reviewed and assessed using the Water Quality Control Policy for Developing California's Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List (Listing Policy). Requirements for data and information specified in the Listing Policy — including those for quality control and assurance, temporal and spatial characteristics, and minimum sample sizes — will be followed when the Water Boards review data and information. The Listing Policy may be viewed at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/303d_listing.shtml.

USEPA has final control over what is listed on the Section 303(d) list. As required by federal law, water bodies included on the Section 303(d) List will be scheduled for development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). A TMDL is the total maximum daily load(s) of a pollutant that can be discharged daily into a given water body and still ensure the attainment of applicable water quality standards. More information about California's TMDL program is available at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/

The State and Regional Water Boards will be developing a California Integrated Report which contains the Section 305(b) Report and Section 303(d) List for California. First, each of the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) will develop Regional Integrated Reports. These Regional Integrated Reports will be reviewed and combined by the State Water Board into the California Integrated Report. Data and information submitted to the State Water Board during the current solicitation period will be used in developing the Regional Integrated Reports and the 2012 California Integrated Report. Regional Water Boards and then the State Water Board will send public notice when the 2012 Integrated Report is completed and available for public comments.

2010 California Integrated Report Update

The State Water Board is currently completing the 2010 Integrated Report for California. We plan to submit the Report to USEPA in early 2010. Although completion of the 2010 Integrated Report overlaps the beginning of the 2012 data solicitation, data submitted pursuant to this Notice will not be considered for the 2010 Integrated Report. The 2010 Integrated Report is a combined 2008-2010 report, which was adopted by each Regional Water Board during 2008 and 2009. The State Water Board staff will send a public notice when the 2010 California Integrated Report is completed and available for public comments in spring of 2010. The 2010 Integrated Report includes the data, which was submitted to the Regional Water Boards in February 2006 as a result of the 2008 data solicitation effort.

Scope of Data Submittal

1. Any person including, but not limited to, private citizens, public agencies, local, State, and federal governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses possessing information regarding the quality of the State's waters may contribute data and information pursuant to this solicitation. The data and information and any supporting (analytical) data such as pH and hardness, need to be submitted in a format that can be readily assessed for listing purposes. **All submittals, to the extent feasible, should be submitted in an electronic format that is PC compatible, preferably Office 2003 or PDF format (see Enclosure 1 for detailed requirements).** Please note that data submitted as part

of the 2010 section 303(d) List update need not be submitted.

2. All new available data and information will be considered. A list of the types of data and information that will be considered can be found in section 6.1.1 of the Listing Policy. This list includes receiving water discharger's monitoring and reporting program data. A complete set of any new data that has become available since the end of the previous data solicitation period (December 4, 2005 – February 28, 2006) should be submitted in electronic format (if possible) to the State Water Board staff developing the Integrated Report (see details on who should receive data on following page).
3. Any interested person may request reassessment of a water body on the existing Section 303(d) List. The interested person should:
 - a. Describe the reason(s) the listing is inappropriate and clearly state the reason the interested party would come to a different outcome, and;
 - b. Provide the data and information necessary, according to the Listing Policy, to enable staff to conduct a complete reassessment.
4. For purposes of this solicitation, "information" includes any documentation that a water body is or is not meeting, or is or is not likely to meet, existing water quality standards (i.e., beneficial uses of water, water quality objectives/criteria, and the State's Anti-degradation Policy as listed in the State's Water Quality Control Plans [Basin Plans], statewide water quality control plans [e.g., the California Ocean Plan], the California Code of Regulations, and pertinent federal laws and regulations).
5. "Data" are considered to be numeric information (i.e., measurements of specific physical, chemical, or biological characteristics in aquatic environments)
6. Data and information provided may pertain to individual water body segments, entire water bodies, or whole watersheds in California.
7. The section 303(d) List and the section 305(b) Report update efforts are not designed, intended, or able to change existing water quality standards. Persons interested in recommending changes to existing water quality standards should contact the appropriate Regional Water Board.

For the 2012 California Integrated Report update, data and information must be submitted to the State Water Board. **All submittals must be received by the State Water Board no later than 5:00 p.m., June 30, 2010. All data and information should be sent to Jeffrey Shu of the State Water Board staff at the following address:**

**Jeffrey Shu
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100**

There are three enclosures to this letter which contain the following information:

- **Enclosure 1** contains detailed information about the requirements for submitting water quality data and information.
- **Enclosure 2** is a map of California showing the locations of each of the nine Regional Water Boards and some of the major water bodies within each Region.
- **Enclosure 3** is the "2012 Integrated Report Data Submittal Information Form". To facilitate processing, a completed copy of this form should accompany each data submittal.

Questions regarding data or information submittals, or about other information included in this Notice, should be directed to the following State Water Board staff: Jeffrey Shu at (916) 323-1308 or JShu@waterboards.ca.gov, or Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon at (916) 341-5508 or SAGaylon@waterboards.ca.gov.

Please bring this Notice to the attention of anyone you believe may be interested in this matter.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Rice
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Alexis Strauss, Director
Water Division (WTR-1)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

All Regional Water Quality Control Board Executive Officers and
Assistant Executive Officers

Enclosure 1

Data Submittal Requirements:

1. **All submittals, to the extent feasible, should be in electronic format that is PC compatible, preferably in Office 2003 or PDF format.** References to web sites will not be accepted in lieu of actual data submitted.
2. To expedite processing, all data and information to be submitted should include a completed 2012 Integrated Report Data Submittal Information Form (see Enclosure 3) with the following:
 - a. Name of person or organization submitting data and information or certifying the completeness and accuracy of the data and information;
 - b. Contact information of the person or organization;
 - c. Date at which data and information is being submitted to the State Water Board;
 - d. Which Regional Water Board the data and information is to be assessed for (see Map in Enclosure 2);
 - e. Whether Geographical Information System (GIS) data files (ArcGIS mxd or ArcView shapefiles) are included;
 - f. Pollutant categories the submitted data and information pertain to;
 - g. Starting and ending dates of when data was collected, or time period which the submitted information represents;
 - h. Brief summary of submittal or list of submittal contents of and any instructions required for assessment, which may include:
 - i. Definitions for codes or abbreviations used; and
 - ii. Whether additional summaries or instructions are attached to the cover sheet or where they are included in the submittal;
 - i. Whether electronic or hard copy/paper format is being submitted.
3. To be considered of sufficient quality to be used as a primary line of evidence in assessing water quality attainment, per Listing Policy sections 6.1.2 and 6.1.4, solicited data being submitted should contain the following:
 - a. To the extent feasible, all data should be submitted in a compatible digital format i.e. in a SWAMP comparable format
<http://swamp.mpsl.mlml.calstate.edu/swamp-comparability> and ready for assessment;
 - b. The name and exact area of the water body and monitoring sites as described in requirement 4.b;
 - c. Metadata for the field and lab data, such as:
 - i. Data and time of measurements;
 - ii. Location of measurements (unique site code, latitude and longitude, and water body name);
 - iii. Number of samples;
 - iv. Analytes;
 - v. Units of measurement;
 - vi. Methods and detection limits, and
 - vii. Other relevant factors;

Enclosure 1

- d. Supporting or associated analytical data (e.g. hardness data with dissolved metals samples, temperature and pH data with ammonia measurements);
- e. A signed copy of the quality assurance procedures including a signed copy of the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) or equivalent document **must be submitted**. The signature must be from the person who is responsible for quality of the data submitted for this water quality assessment. A hard copy of the QAPP must be submitted if a hard copy of the data is submitted. A QAPP or equivalent document must contain, at a minimum, the following:
 - i. Objectives of the study, project, or monitoring program;
 - ii. Methods used for sample collection and handling;
 - iii. Field and laboratory measurement and analysis;
 - iv. Data management, validation, and recordkeeping (including proper chain of custody) procedures;
 - v. Quality assurance and quality control requirements;
 - vi. A statement certifying the adequacy of the QAPP (plus name of person certifying the document); and
 - vii. A description of personnel training.
- f. For narrative and qualitative submittals, the submission must:
 - i. Describe events or conditions that indicate impacts on water quality;
 - ii. Provide linkage between the measurement endpoint (e.g., a study that may have been performed for some other purpose) and the water quality standard of interest;
 - iii. Be scientifically defensible;
 - iv. Provide analyst's credentials and training;
 - v. Be verifiable by the State Water Board or Regional Water Board; and
 - vi. Identify the name and exact area of the water body and monitoring sites with details (as described under bullet 3).
- g. For photographic documentation, the submission must:
 - i. Identify the date and time;
 - ii. Identify the name and exact area of the water body and monitoring sites with details (as described in bullet 3);
 - iii. Provide a thorough description of photograph(s);
 - iv. Describe the spatial and temporal representation of the photographs;
 - v. Provide linkage between photograph-represented condition and condition that indicates impacts on water quality;
 - vi. Provide photographer's rationale for area photographed and camera settings used; and
 - vii. Be verifiable by the State Water Board or Regional Water Board.
- h. For data from citizen volunteer water quality monitoring efforts, the submission should include:
 - i. The name of the group; and
 - ii. An indication of any training in water quality assessment completed by members of the group;

Enclosure 1

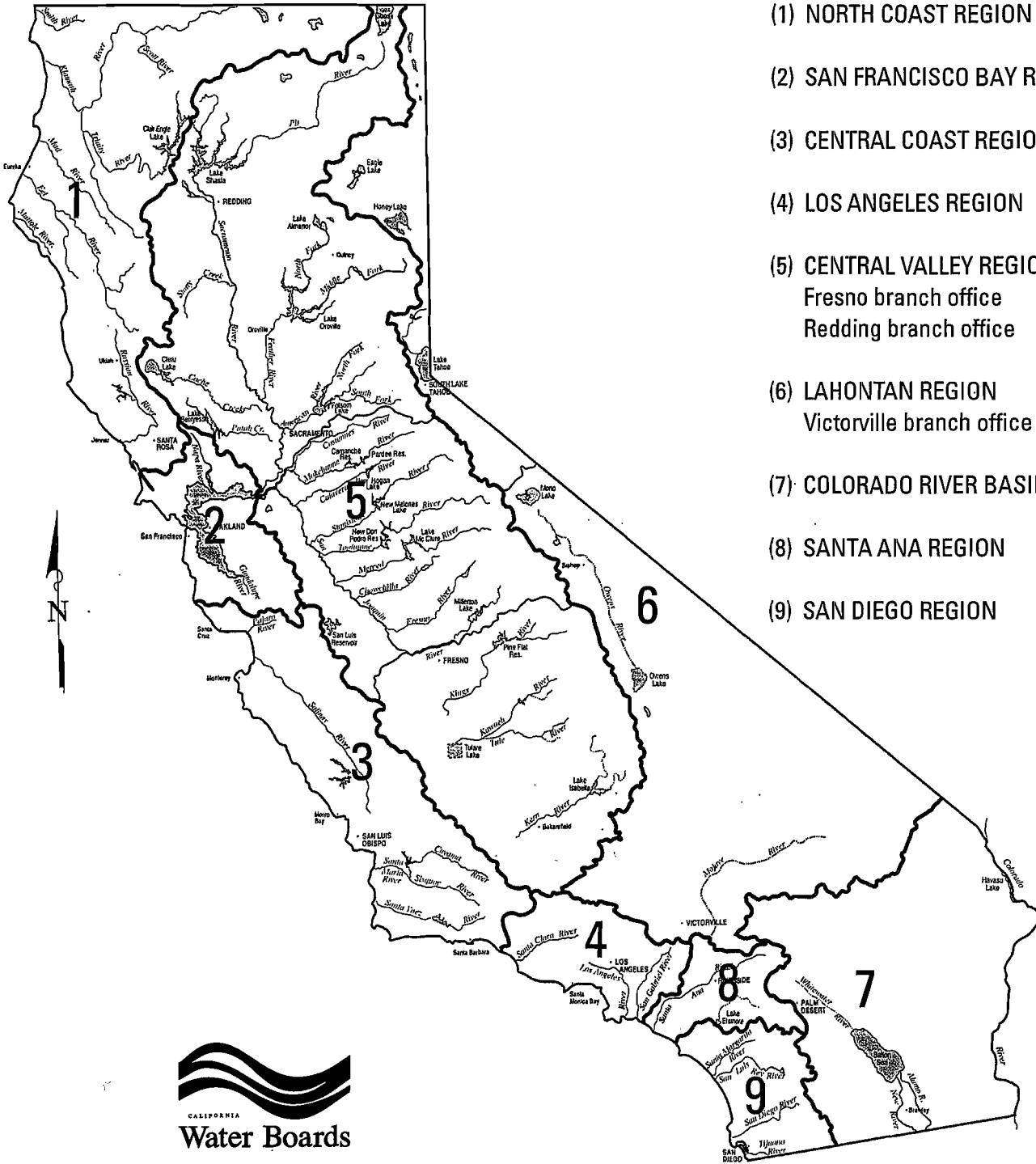
- i. Site-specific or project-specific sampling and analysis plan for numeric data should also be available containing the following:
 - i. Data quality objectives or requirements of the project;
 - ii. A statement that data quality objectives or requirements were achieved;
 - iii. Rationale for the selection of sampling sites, water quality parameters, sampling frequency and methods that assure the samples are spatially and temporally representative of the surface water and representative of conditions within the targeted sampling timeframe; and
 - iv. Documentation to support the conclusion that results are reproducible.

4. GIS data files should include:

- a. GIS metadata with detail of all parameters of the projection including datum.
- b. The name and exact area of the water body and monitoring sites the information concerns, including either:
 - i. Very clear electronic copy of maps indicating the area the information concerns; (e.g., mark sample location on a USGS 7.5 minute topographic quad map along with the quad sheet name); or
 - ii. The latitude/longitude of the location.

All new data and information must be received by the close of business at 5:00 p.m. on June 30, 2010.

California Regional Water Quality Control Boards



2012 Integrated Report Data Submittal Information Form

Contact Information			
First Name:		Last Name:	
Organization:			
Mailing Address:			
Email:		Preferred Contact Method:	
Phone:	(<u> </u> <u> </u>) <u> </u> - <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Email</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Phone</i>

Submittal Information			
Submittal Date:	<u> </u> / <u> </u> / <u> </u>		
Region data intended for: (Check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> (1) North Coast	<input type="checkbox"/> (2) San Francisco	<input type="checkbox"/> (3) Central Coast
	<input type="checkbox"/> (4) Los Angeles	<input type="checkbox"/> (5) Central Valley	<input type="checkbox"/> (6) Lahontan
	<input type="checkbox"/> (7) Colorado River	<input type="checkbox"/> (8) Santa Ana	<input type="checkbox"/> (9) San Diego
GIS map layers included:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		
Pollutant Categories: (Check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydromodification	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Organics	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxicity
	<input type="checkbox"/> Metals/Metalloids	<input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens	<input type="checkbox"/> Trash
	<input type="checkbox"/> Nuisance	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticides	<input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous
	<input type="checkbox"/> Nutrients	<input type="checkbox"/> Salinity	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Inorganics	<input type="checkbox"/> Sediment	
Time Period Data Collected:	<u> </u> / <u> </u> / <u> </u> - <u> </u> / <u> </u> / <u> </u>		
Summary of Data (Explanation of data included in submission or instructions on using data.):			
Submittal format:	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Electronic</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Hard Copy/Paper</i>	

Internal Use Only (by Water Boards)			
Control #:	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	Date Received:	<u> </u> / <u> </u> / <u> </u>