

State Water Resources Control Board

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STATE WATER BOARD ADOPTS LIST OF WATERS THAT DO NOT MEET STANDARDS

Federal Clean Water Act Requires States to Review and Update List

SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board has adopted the list of the water bodies in California that do not meet water quality standards. The list includes bays, estuaries, portions of the ocean, lakes, streams and rivers.

The list is compiled as part of the Board's ongoing commitment to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources and is required by the federal *Clean Water Act*. States are also required by the *Clean Water Act* to provide the lists to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and to develop plans to clean up the pollution impairing our waterways.

This year the 303(d) list shows a total of 2,111 water body-pollutant *combinations* in California. There were 203 water bodies taken off the list and 352 were added. The final 2006 303(d) list approved by the State Water Board also includes additions and deletions from the draft 303(d) list released in September 2005, following review of the comments submitted on the draft list.

Some stream sections may have dropped from the list because of a lack of specific data that shows the water bodies are polluted. Each addition may represent newly available data that found another, specific pollutant in one section of a single body of water and *not an additional* body of water.

"The number of waters shown as polluted is growing as our knowledge increases about pollutants and their harmful effects," said State Water Board Chair Tam M. Doduc. "This year we have more complete and consistent information on more pollutants than ever before because science-based approaches allow us to do more and better testing and to better determine our priorities for cleaning up the identified waterways," Doduc added.

The 303(d) list does not indicate the overall health of California's waterways, because separate listings of pollutants may change. In addition, the list includes segments of water bodies that do not meet water quality standards. The identified waters have levels of a pollutant exceeding state and Clean Water Act standards.

For each identified water body on the list, the State Water Board includes a description of the associated pollutants and the schedule for developing a cleanup
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plan commonly called a Total Maximum Daily Load or TMDL. A TMDL establishes the maximum amount of a pollutant that can be discharged into that water body without exceeding water quality standards and a plan for actions to reduce or eliminate that pollutant.

The Water Board accepted public comments on the proposed revisions to the list, made adjustments to the list as a result, and presented the draft list at the October 25, 2006 Board meeting.

The Water Board will submit its 303(d) list to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency within the next month for approval.

This year's list is available on the State Water Board's Web site at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/tmdl/303d_lists2006.html

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