

ITEM: 16

SUBJECT: Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins

REPORT: The Triennial Review process set forth in the Federal Clean Water Act and California Water Code requires that regional water boards conduct public hearings to help them identify and prioritize problems concerning the effectiveness of a water quality control plan. It also requires that the regional water boards develop work plans to investigate the problems and make appropriate amendments to water quality control plans. This item concerns the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region's (Central Valley Water Board) obligatory review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins (Basin Plan) and approval of the work plan proposed by staff.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive further comment from the public on water quality issues and the work plan proposed for addressing them. The Central Valley Water Board held a workshop in August 2009 to receive comments on issues to be included in the Triennial Review work plan. Written comments submitted for the workshop were provided to the Board in the workshop agenda package. The written comments submitted for the workshop can be viewed at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/triennialreviews.shtml.

Staff reviewed and responded to comments and developed a work plan to investigate the identified issues by priority. Resources for this planning effort are limited, so the work plan identifies what can be expected with existing resources and what additional resources would be required to address remaining issues. The response to comments and the draft work plan were made available for additional comments with the release of the Notice of Public Hearing. Written comments submitted since the Notice of Public Hearing was released are included in this agenda package. Staff responded to the additional comments and made changes to the draft work plan as appropriate.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Central Valley Water Board will consider adoption of a resolution to:

- Adopt the proposed work plan which identifies and ranks what water quality issues need to be addressed and in what priority resources will be allocated to address these issues and develop basin plan amendments,
- Approve the response to comments received during the process,
- Reaffirm that the Basin Plan is adequate in all areas where an issue for investigation has not been identified,
- Declare that the Basin Plan in its entirety shall remain in effect except when a specific portion of it is subsequently amended through implementation of the work plan.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed Resolution.

Mgmt. Review _____

Legal Review _____

13 October 2011

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting

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