

Agenda Item 9

Informational Item on Proposed Amendment to Establish a Region-wide Process for Evaluating the Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) Beneficial Use in Agriculturally Dominated Surface Water Bodies



Anne Littlejohn
Sr. Environmental Scientist

History

- April Board Workshop
- Key Issues
 - Water Body Listings – Level of Detail
 - LIMITED-MUN Beneficial Use
 - Monitoring/Surveillance

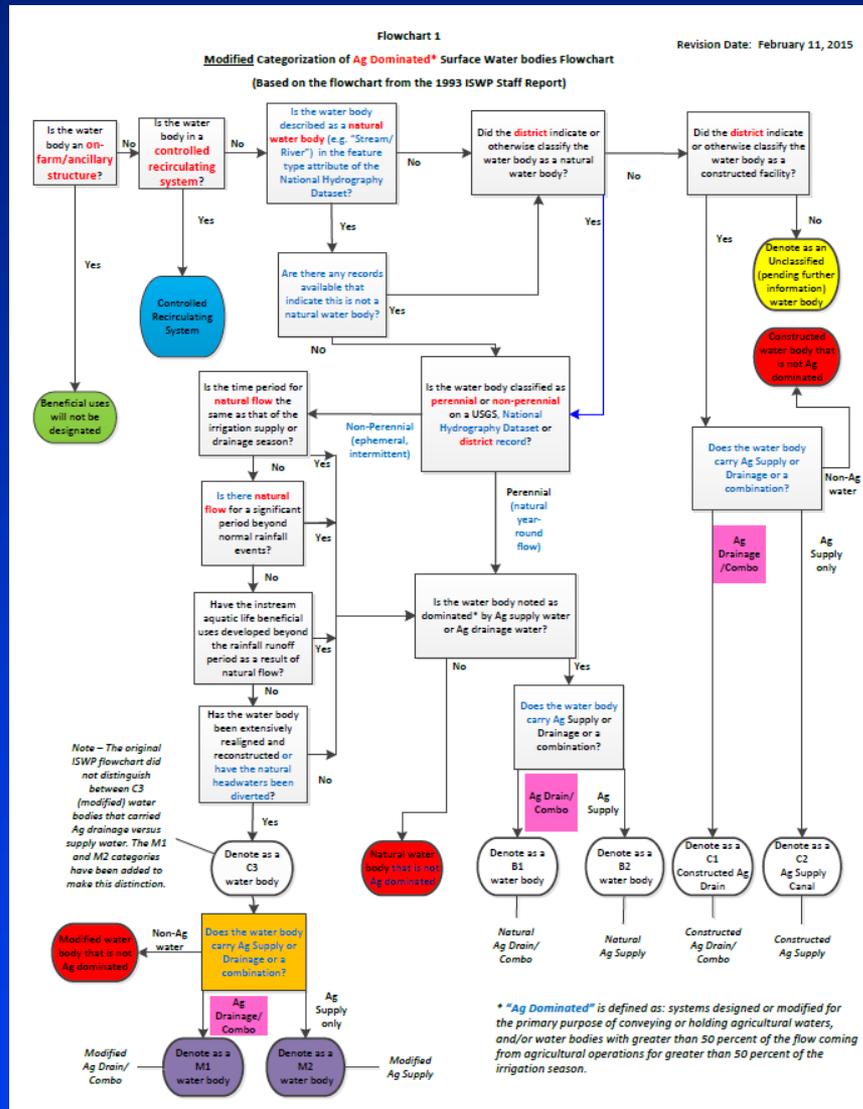
Agenda

LIMITED-MUN Beneficial Use

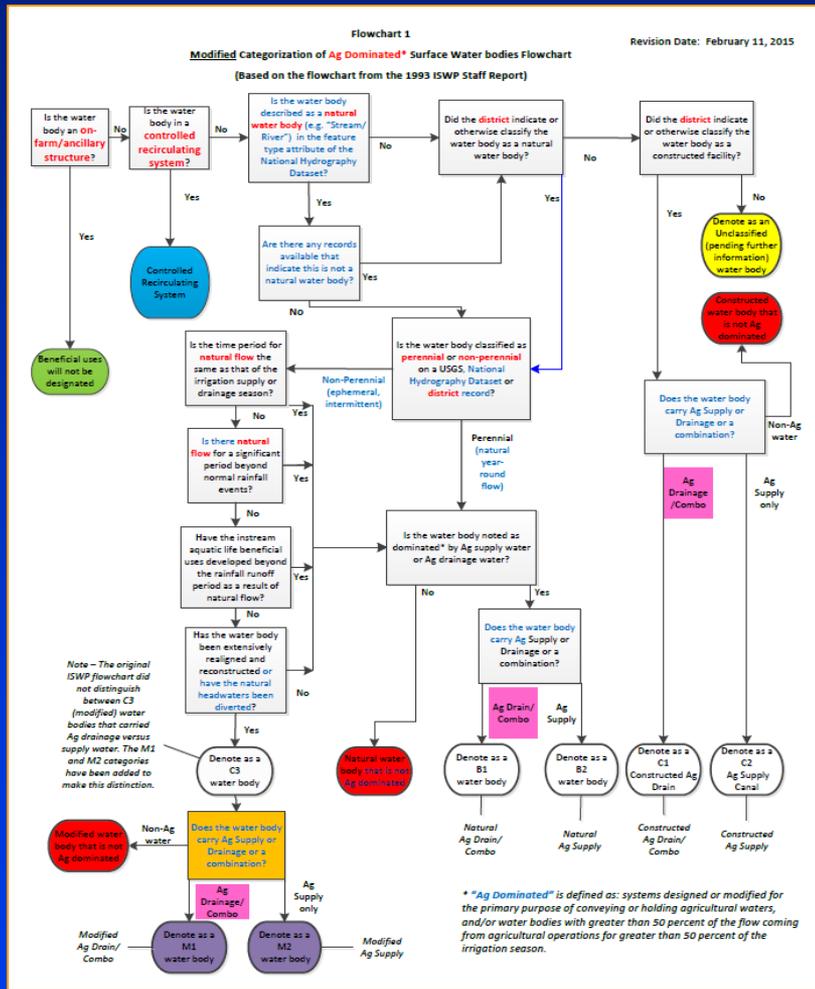
- Water Body Categorization Process
- Options for a Definition
- Options for a Water Quality Objective
 - Selection Criteria
- Next Steps/Timeline
- Comments/Questions

MUN Evaluation Process

Preferred Alternative - Water Body Categorization



Proposed Process



Water Body
 Categorization
 Report and
 Regional Board
 Staff review



Proposed Process

Water Body Category	Beneficial Use	MUN WQOs
C1 (Constructed Ag Drain/Combo)	No MUN	N/A
M1 (Modified Ag Drain/Combo)	No MUN	N/A
C2 (Constructed Ag Supply)	LIMITED-MUN	Narrative and/or Numeric
M2 (Modified Ag Supply)	LIMITED-MUN	
B1 (Natural Ag Drain/Combo)	LIMITED-MUN	
B2 (Natural Ag Supply)	LIMITED-MUN	
Controlled Recirculating System	No MUN	N/A

Categories that we are focusing on today

Water Body Categories with proposed LIMITED-MUN

- **C2, M2**
 - Constructed/Modified Water Bodies
 - Convey Supply Water Only
- **B1, B2**
 - Natural Water Body conveying Ag Drainage, Supply, or Combination



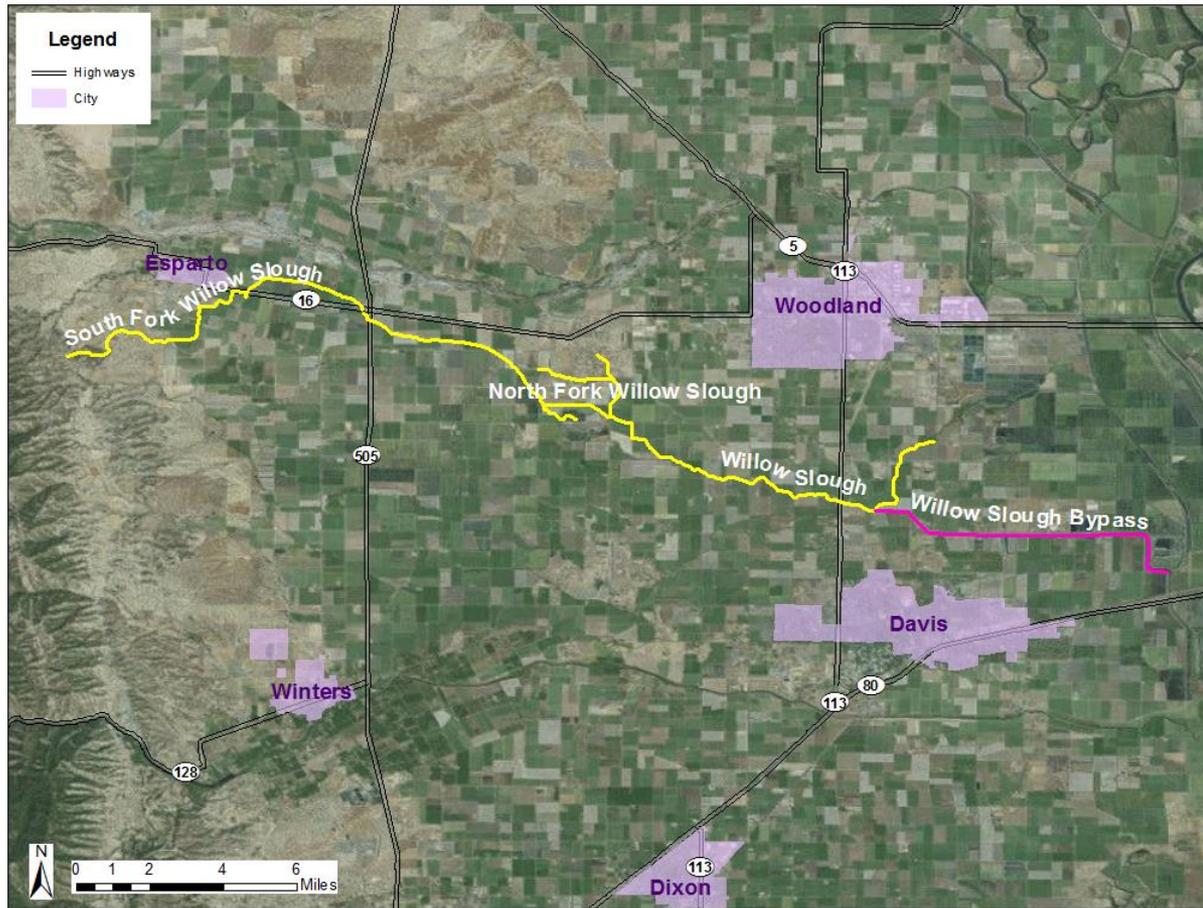
LIMITED-MUN Water Bodies

Limited Use based on Inherent Characteristics such as:

- Low/Intermittent Flow
 - Ephemeral Streams
 - Constructed Supply
- Elevated background concentrations
 - Naturally occurring
 - During maintenance activities



Example - B1 Water Body Willow Slough



- Naturally Ephemeral
- Conveys Supply and Drainage
- Fluctuating Flow

Example - C2 Water Body

Ag Supply Channel

East Side of San Joaquin River Basin

- Water Supply – primarily Sierra snowmelt
- Constructed to supply irrigation water
- Managed and maintained for Ag operations



Developing a LIMITED-MUN Beneficial Use: Definition

- Current MUN definition:

“Uses of water for community, military, or individual water supply systems including, but not limited to, drinking water supply.”

- MUN Water Quality Objectives:
 - Primary and Secondary MCLs
 - CTRs for human health

Options for a Definition of LIMITED-MUN

1. Non-potable Uses
2. Part of Ag activities and support Non-potable uses
3. MUN use requires a change in management and/or treatment
4. Full MUN use is limited by physical conditions (e.g. flow, elevated concentrations)

Definition of LIMITED-MUN Discussion

- Non-Potable
- State Board and US EPA feedback
 - “Non-potable” too broad
 - “Natural background” difficult to define

Recommendation:

Use a combination of options 3 & 4

Option for a Definition of LIMITED-MUN

Uses of water for municipal and domestic supply in agriculturally dominated surface water bodies where full use is limited by inherent conditions such as intermittent flow, management to maintain intended use of a constructed facility and/or constituent concentrations in source water.

WQO language for LIMITED-MUN Areas of Agreement

- Downstream Beneficial Uses must be protected
- Water body should be protected from degradation

Options for the type of LIMITED-MUN Water Quality Objective (WQO)

- Narrative
- Numeric
- Combination of
Narrative and Numeric

Selection Criteria for Water Quality Objectives

1. Consistent with federal and state laws and policies
2. Appropriate protection of MUN
3. Downstream protection of beneficial uses
4. Utilization for intended design and purpose
5. Efficient (reasonable) use of resources
6. Flexibility to address elevated background constituents

LIMITED-MUN WQO

Narrative Options

1. Accumulation cannot impact Non-potable uses
2. Accumulation cannot impact Non-potable uses or degrade in-stream and downstream uses
3. Accumulation cannot impact Non-potable and Potable uses (when managed/treated)
4. Accumulation above natural background cannot preclude managed/treated use
5. Consideration to the maximum benefit of the people of the State
6. Discharge will not degrade downstream beneficial uses consistent with Antidegradation Policy
7. Protection consistent with Antidegradation Policy

Narrative - Issues

- “Non-potable” is a broad term with no set water quality objectives
- “Managed and/or treated” hard to define
- Relative and acceptable economic costs
- How to implement when using Antidegradation in the WQO?

WQO for LIMITED-MUN

Numeric Options

- Primary not Secondary MCLs
- No Primary MCL for Trihalomethane
- Primary and Secondary – but used dissolved fractions

WQO for LIMITED-MUN

Potential Direction

- Narrative
- Utilize concepts from Antidegradation Policy
- Call out protection of downstream beneficial uses

WQO for LIMITED-MUN

Potential Revised Option

Water quality will be protected consistent with the state antidegradation policy and will not negatively impact downstream beneficial uses.

LIMITED-MUN

Factors to Consider When Determining Potential Degradation

- Source Water
- Physical Hydrology
- Current Management
 - Conservation; Recycling; Reuse Efforts
- Potential for contaminant accumulation
- Potential impact on downstream beneficial uses

Next Steps

- Finish development on LIMITED-MUN beneficial use
- Next stakeholder meeting: September 2015
 - Monitoring/Surveillance

Timeline

- CEQA Environmental Review and Economic Analysis – Fall 2015
- Draft Staff Report Peer Review – Winter 2016
- Draft Staff Report Public Review – Winter/Spring 2016
- Board Workshop –Spring 2016
- Board Hearing – Summer 2016

Questions/Comments?