

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
Thursday, May 17, 2018
Regional Water Board Office
Santa Rosa, California

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: Workshop on the Draft 2018 Triennial Review of the Basin Plan and the Basin Planning Workplan for Fiscal Years 2018 through 2021 (Alydda Mangelsdorf)

BOARD ACTION: This is a public workshop. There will be no Board action.

BACKGROUND: Water quality control plans (Basin Plans) provide the basis for protecting water quality in California. Basin Plans are mandated by both the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and the State Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act (Porter-Cologne). Sections 13240-13247 of Porter-Cologne specify that the regional basin plans shall include the following:

- 1) Water quality objectives which, in the judgment of the Regional Water Board, will ensure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses and the prevention of nuisance.
- 2) The program of implementation for achieving water quality objectives (objectives), including a description of the nature of actions that are necessary to achieve the objectives, time schedules for the actions to be taken, and a description of surveillance (i.e., monitoring) to be undertaken to determine compliance with objectives.

The Regional Water Board adopted its first interim basin plans in 1971. These were followed in 1975 by a comprehensive Water Quality Control Plan for the Klamath River Basin (1A) and a comprehensive Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coastal Basin (1B). In 1988, the Regional Water Board combined and updated the two comprehensive plans and their abstracts into a single Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region. The Regional Water Board has amended the Basin Plan numerous times since 1975.

DISCUSSION: Section 13250 of Porter-Cologne and Section 303 (c)(1) of the federal Clean Water Act require a review of basin plans at least once each three-year period to keep pace with changes in regulations, new technologies, policies, and physical attributes within the region. The Regional Water Board is responsible for this review, and is required to: 1) identify those portions of the Basin Plan that are in need of modification or new additions; 2) adopt standards as appropriate; and 3) recognize those portions of the Basin Plan that are appropriate as written. The review process includes a public workshop and a comment period to identify issues of water quality concern that may be amended by

revisions of the Basin Plan. After public input is received, the Regional Water Board's role in the Triennial Review process is to determine if Basin Plan revisions are needed, and to set forth a priority list and schedule for consideration of the needed Basin Plan revisions.

At the conclusion of the current Triennial Review, the Regional Water Board will consider adoption of a resolution that:

- 1) Summarizes those sections of the Basin Plan the Regional Water Board has determined to be appropriate and accurate;
- 2) Sets forth a prioritized list of potential amendments to the Basin Plan in a Planning Program Workplan for Fiscal Years 2018 through 2021; and
- 3) Provides direction to staff on several key water quality issues as described in policy statements. A policy statement has no regulatory effect, but is a statement of guidance, only. The key issues to be addressed by draft policy statements include: climate change, chemicals of emerging concern, groundwater protection, and water conservation.

SUMMARY OF DRAFT PLANNING PROGRAM WORKPLAN FOR 2018-2021

The draft Planning Program Workplan for 2018-2021 is intended to guide the work assignments of planning staff for fiscal years 2018-19 through 2020-21. The projects included in the draft Planning Program Workplan are as follows:

- Develop Russian River Pathogen TMDL and Action Plan.
- Develop Laguna de Santa Rosa Nutrient, Dissolved Oxygen, Temperature and Sediment TMDL (or alternative) and Action Plan.
- Develop Ocean Beaches and Freshwater Streams Pathogen TMDL (or alternative) and Action Plan.
- Conduct TMDL Program Retrospective Review to update existing TMDLs, TMDL action plans, and TMDL implementation policies.
- Develop Groundwater Protection Strategy to include designation of beneficial uses of groundwater and development of an action plan outlining the designated level methodology for discharges of waste and a programmatic approach to salt and nutrient management.
- Develop Instream Flow Criteria/Objectives for the Navarro River. Evaluate other rivers as candidates for future flow criteria development. Consider development of a regional narrative flow objective.
- Develop a landscape assessment tool to support climate change adaptation permitting and policy recommendations.
- Update Chapter 3 to include language relative to Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRW). Develop ONRW recommendations based on result of landscape assessment tool output.
- Revise Biostimulatory Substances objective to address biostimulatory conditions to better support needed action associated with cyanotoxin assessment and control.
- Update Native American Culture (CUL) and subsistence fishing (FISH) beneficial use definitions to comport with statewide Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL), Tribal

subsistence fishing (TSUB), and subsistence fishing (SUB) beneficial use definitions adopted by the State Water Board in 2017.

2018 TRIENNIAL REVIEW SCHEDULE

The *Draft Staff Report for the 2018 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Draft Staff Report)* describes the status of 2014 priority projects and presents new issues that should be addressed in the 2018 Triennial Review. It also includes staff's priority ranking of the proposed projects, with the highest priority projects included in a draft Planning Program Workplan for 2018-2021. The *Draft Staff Report*, draft Planning Program Workplan, and draft Resolution will be posted on the Regional Water Board's website and made available via the Regional Water Board's Basin Planning email subscription (Lyris) list on May 5, 2018.

During the workshop, the Regional Water Board will provide feedback on staff's recommendations for changes to the Basin Plan and the draft Planning Program Workplan. Written public comments will be due on or before June 22, 2018. After considering written public comments, staff will develop a proposed Planning Program Workplan for 2018-2021 for the Regional Water Board's consideration at a hearing, tentatively scheduled for September 6, 2018. Oral public comments on the proposed Planning Program Workplan will be received at the hearing.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. *Draft Staff Report for the 2018 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region*
2. Draft Resolution No. R1-2018-0030 including Draft Planning Program Workplan for Fiscal Year 2018 through 2021