

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
1:00 P.M., Wednesday, June 22, 2011  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
David C. Joseph Hearing Room  
5550 Skylane Blvd., Ste. A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Item: 10

Subject: Workshop on the 2011-2014 Triennial Review Priority List

### **Background**

Staff from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) has begun the 2011 review of the *Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region* (Basin Plan). Staff presented a verbal update on the 2007 Triennial Review issues and a proposed approach for the 2011 Triennial Review to the Board at the May 5, 2011 meeting. On June 9, 2011 the *Initial Staff Report for the 2011 Triennial Review* (2011 Initial Staff Report) contains an initial assessment by staff on the effectiveness (adequacies and inadequacies) of the Basin Plan. This assessment was based on the May 2011 version of the Basin Plan.

As part of the Triennial Review process, the Regional Water Board is required to:

- Identify those portions of the Basin Plan which are in need of modification, including revisions and/or additions to existing language; and
- Recognize those portions of the Basin Plan which are appropriate as written.

The *2011 Triennial Review List* and *Short List of 2011 Triennial Review Issues*, when adopted by the Regional Water Board, will direct the efforts of planning staff, and other program staff as needed, over the next three years. As resources allow, staff will investigate the merits of each of the water quality issues identified on the Triennial Review List as a potential Basin Plan amendment. Staff will provide updates on the various issues as the projects develop into "stand alone" basin plan amendments.

As an item on the *Short List of 2011 Triennial Review Issues* is completed, staff will turn their attention to the next issue on the *2011 Triennial Review List*, as appropriate. Proposed basin plan amendments may be presented to the Regional Water Board in an order other than that indicated on the *2011 Triennial Review List* and *Short List of 2011 Triennial Review Issues* due to the complexity of issues, coordination with the State Water Board or other external reasons. The *2011 Triennial Review List* and *Short List*

of *2011 Triennial Review Issues* will be the “general plan” that directs planning staff resources.

Subsequently, and separate from the Triennial Review process, the Regional Water Board will consider each proposed Basin Plan amendment using public hearings and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) functional equivalent process. This will allow the Regional Water Board to consider each potential Basin Plan amendment (BPA) on its own merits and to receive public input on specific issues.

The 2011 Initial Staff Report contains:

- A brief background of basin planning, including a description of the Triennial Review process.
- Status updates on the twenty-nine issues included on the 2007 Triennial Review List. Each update includes Regional Water Board staff’s recommendation relative to maintaining the issue on the *2011 Triennial Review List*. The recommendation also includes staff’s proposal on which of these issues should be included on the “Short List” of Triennial Review Issues. The Short List would include those issues staff believes could be brought to the Board for consideration as a Basin Plan amendment within the three year Triennial Review timeframe.
- Identification of the five issues brought to Regional Water Board staff’s attention since adoption of the 2007 Triennial Review. Regional Water Board staff recommendations are included for each of these issues as described above.
- Regional Water Board staff’s initial recommendations on the proposed:
  - *2011 Triennial Review List*, organized to present issues roughly in the order they would be transferred to the Short List after Regional Water Board’s final consideration of the issue.
  - *Short List of 2011 Triennial Review Issues*.
- Proposed schedule and framework for the 2011 Triennial Review process.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: This is an informational item only.