STAFF REPORT

EVALUATION OF WATER QUALITY CONDITIONS FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO SECTION 303(d) LIST

February 2009

San Francisco Bay Regional
Water Quality Control Board

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1 Introduction

One of the San Francisco Bay Water Board's functions is to evaluate the water quality condition of waters in the San Francisco Bay Region. To accomplish this goal, staff gathers and evaluates data that are the basis of its water quality assessments. This staff report presents the results of staff's review and consideration of the available water quality data for the Region, including data submitted by the public. One important outcome of the assessment process is the identification of water bodies that are being proposed for inclusion on the list of impaired water bodies. Under federal Clean Water Act (CWA) regulations, the State is required every two years to report to the U.S. EPA on the status of water quality in the State (Section 305(b) water quality assessment), and provide a list of impaired water bodies (Section 303(d) list). Impaired water bodies are those where water quality standards are not met or expected to be met after implementation of technology based requirements of the CWA.

The 303(d) list of impaired waters must include a description of the pollutants causing the violation of water quality standards. As defined in CWA and federal regulations, water quality standards include the designated uses of a water body, the adopted water quality criteria, and the State's antidegradation policy. For water quality limited segments included on the 303(d) list, the State is required to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to address the impairment. A TMDL is defined as the "sum of the individual waste load allocations for point sources and load allocations for non-point sources and natural background" (40 CFR130.2) such that the capacity of the water body to assimilate pollutant loadings (the loading capacity) is not exceeded. The federal requirement for setting priorities on which TMDLs will be developed is addressed in the State Board's *2004 Water Quality Control Policy for Developing California's Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List* (Listing Policy) by the establishment of schedules for TMDL development.

The last review of the 303(d) list and update occurred in 2006. The review was based on the Listing Policy developed in 2004. For the 2008 update, the Water Board is considering for approval, recommendations on the conditions of waters in the Region, applying the Listing Policy in the process.

This staff report presents the current status of water quality in the San Francisco Bay Region for water bodies with readily available data, and identifies the methods and data used to evaluate water quality status. The report identifies the proposed additions, deletions, and changes to the 2006 303(d) list. The water quality assessments also result in the identification of water bodies where water quality standards are met or where not enough information is available to accurately assess water quality. The results of the water quality assessments are compiled into a statewide integrated report referred to as the 303(d)/305(b) Integrated Report (Integrated Report) by the State Board.

The State Board will include the Water Boards' listing/delisting recommendations in its preparation of the statewide 303(d) list for submission to the U.S. EPA. The statewide 303(d) list will be part of the Integrated Report. The State Board's deliberative process will be conducted in 2009.

Appendix A of this staff report includes the public solicitation letters requesting that the public submit any and all available data to support the assessment of water quality in the Region. Appendix B provides a summary of the data received from the public and an assessment of data quality. Appendix C refers to the Fact Sheets supporting the 303(d) list change recommendations The Fact Sheets are available online at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/TMDLs/303dlist.shtml

Fact Sheets showing water bodies that support at least some beneficial uses, water bodies not listed due to insufficient information and revisions to the 2006 303(d) list are also available for viewing by following the link above.

2 Listing Policy and Evaluation Criteria

The proposed 2008 303(d) list of impaired water bodies in the San Francisco Bay Region was developed in accordance with the Listing Policy (SWRCB 2004). The Listing Policy establishes a standardized approach for developing California's section 303(d) list. It outlines an approach that provides the rules for making listing decisions based upon different kinds of data and establishes a systematic framework for statistical analysis of water quality data. The Listing Policy also establishes requirements for data quality, data quantity, and administration of the listing process. Decision rules for listing and delisting are provided for: chemical-specific water quality standards; bacterial water quality standards; health advisories; bioaccumulation of chemicals in aquatic life tissues; nuisances such as trash, odor, and foam; nutrients; water and sediment toxicity; adverse biological response; and degradation of aquatic life populations and communities.

Listing and delisting decisions were made in accordance with the Listing Policy, using all applicable narrative and numeric water quality criteria contained in the San Francisco Bay Basin Plan and in the California and National Toxic Rules. The Listing Policy specifies the frequency of exceedance of applicable water quality objectives that is necessary to make a determination that the water is impaired. When applying narrative water quality criteria, staff used guidelines developed by the U.S. EPA and other government agencies together with findings published in the scientific peer-reviewed literature to interpret data and evaluate the water quality conditions.

3 Information Received and Analyzed

3.1 Data solicitation

Federal regulation [(40 CFR § 130.7(b)(5)] states that "Each State shall assemble and evaluate all existing and readily available water quality-related data and information" when developing the 303(d) list. In December 2006, Water Board staff solicited the public to submit any and all water quality data to be considered in preparation of the 2008 303(d) list and 305(b) report.

This solicitation established a data submittal deadline of February 28, 2007. On January 30, 2007, staff transmitted a notice clarifying that there were no limits on the type or format of data and information that the public could provide to the Water Boards for their assessment. The notices provided to the public can be found in Appendix A of this report.

Appendix B contains a summary of the data and information submitted to the Water Board for consideration in the 2008 303(d) listing process. We received 15 submissions in response to the data solicitation, including multiple requests to list water bodies, two requests to delist and/or not to list water bodies as well as data sets without any accompanying request to list or delist. Water Board staff evaluated the submitted data in accordance with the Listing Policy, taking into account spatial and temporal representativeness and quality (Appendix B). The submissions and listing requests covered four major categories of pollutants and stressors including (1) trash; (2) general water quality parameters such as dissolved oxygen and temperature; (3) nutrients and biostimulatory substances; and (4) suspended solids, sedimentation /siltation.

3.2 Data analysis and recommendations

The assessment process began by identifying and compiling all readily available water quality data as described above. Then, staff systematically reviewed these data sets. Due to the relatively limited number of data sets identified through the solicitation process, much of the effort focused on reviewing the available data collected by the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) and the Regional Monitoring Program (RMP). Staff also developed an approach for interpreting the photographic and narrative documentation for trash relative to applicable water quality standards, consistent with the Listing Policy. In addition, beach water quality data collected by county health departments and stored in the State Board Beach Water Quality Database were evaluated to determine whether the most recently collected data would result in new listing or de-listing decisions for our Region. No changes to the 2006 303(d) list were identified.

The SWAMP data include field surveys of water column chemistry, sediment chemistry, sediment toxicity, and water toxicity data as well as ancillary data on factors such as flows, biological community and physical habitat indicators. SWAMP was designed to provide information necessary to effectively manage the State's water resources and, subsequently, facilitate assessment of water quality under sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Objectives of SWAMP include: (1) assessing the physical, chemical, and biological condition of water bodies in each region in order to determine if water bodies are impaired and beneficial uses are being protected; (2) generating data and information during different seasonal conditions; and (3) generating data and information that is somewhat evenly distributed across a water body to provide a screening level assessment of water quality. These objectives ensure that the SWAMP data meet all quality requirements of the Listing Policy.

For the purpose of analyzing the data and developing the proposed revisions to the 303(d) list, the Listing Policy recommends a "line of evidence" approach to establish both whether a water body is impaired and what pollutant is causing the impairment. The lines of evidence in support

of listing and/or delisting decisions for each affected water body are summarized in a water body-specific fact sheet. Fact sheets were developed for each water body for which sufficient data were available to evaluate during the review.

3.2.1 SWAMP data evaluation

Over the 5-year period (2001 – 2005) SWAMP conducted water quality monitoring in 37 watersheds in the Region (SFBRWQCB 2007c, 2007d). Data were collected at multiple locations within each water body over three hydrologic cycles including the wet season (January through March), the spring/decreasing flow season (April through May) and the dry season (June through October). Altogether data from over 190 sampling locations were evaluated. Selected sites in each water body were sampled to determine benthic macroinvertebrate assemblages, temperature, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, trace metals, trace organic compounds, toxicity, and coliforms. Temporal variability in basic water quality (temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO), pH, and specific conductance) was determined by continuous deployment of field measurement devices. These continuous deployments typically lasted one to two weeks and were conducted three to four times per year. Water, sediment and tissue samples that were collected were analyzed to determine concentrations of more than 230 constituents.

The first step of the water quality assessment involved screening all the data against the available water quality criteria and guidelines. For pollutants with applicable numeric water quality criteria, the impairment status was evaluated by comparing the concentration data with existing water and sediment objectives and standards contained chiefly in the San Francisco Bay Basin Plan, California and National Toxic Rules and U.S. EPA guidelines. When only narrative water quality objectives existed, staff identified evaluation guidelines protective of the beneficial use and specified the conditions above which impacts were minimal. Table 1 and Table 2 show a complete list of numeric criteria and evaluation guidelines used in this assessment.

Table 1: Water quality thresholds for 303(d) data screening of freshwater creeks for selected beneficial uses including aquatic life, municipal and domestic supply (MUN), agricultural supply (AGR) and water contact recreation (REC1)

Analyte	***Description of Standard***	***Numeric Limit***	***Units***	***Reference***
Field measures				
Temperature	Maximum, salmonid	24	° C	USEPA, 1977
	7-day mean, coho	14.8	° C	Sullivan *et al.*, 2000
	7-day mean, steelhead	17	° C	Sullivan *et al.*, 2000
Oxygen, dissolved	Minimum, warmwater	5	mg/L	Basin Plan, 2007b
	Minimum, coldwater	7	mg/L	Basin Plan, 2007b
pH	Range	6.5 to 8.5	S.U.	Basin Plan, 2007b
Specific conductance	Min for AGR	200	µS	Basin Plan, 2007b
	Max for AGR	3000	µS	Basin Plan, 2007b
	Max for MUN	900	µS	Basin Plan, 2007b
Salts – AGR only	***Salt thresholds apply only to waters with AGR beneficial use assigned.***			
Boron	Maximum	0.5	mg/L	Basin Plan, 2007b
Chloride	Maximum	142	mg/L	Basin Plan, 2007b
Metals	***Cadmium, copper, nickel, silver, and zinc values assume a hardness of 100 mg/L CaCO3. Values at other hardness levels must be calculated using formulas in the Basin Plan.***			
Arsenic, dissolved	1-hour average WQO	340	µg/L	Basin Plan, 2007b
	4-day average WQO	150		
Cadmium, total	1-hour average WQO	3.9	µg/L	Basin Plan, 2007b
	4-day average WQO	1.1		
Chromium VI, dissolved	1-hour average WQO	16	µg/L	Basin Plan, 2007b
	4-day average WQO	11		
Copper, dissolved	1-hour average WQO	13	µg/L	Basin Plan, 2007b
	4-day average WQO	9		
Lead, dissolved	1-hour average WQO	65	µg/L	Basin Plan, 2007b
	4-day average WQO	2.5		
Mercury, total	1-hour average WQO	2.4	µg/L	Basin Plan, 2007b
	4-day average WQO	0.025		
Nickel, dissolved	1-hour average WQO	470	µg/L	Basin Plan, 2007b
	4-day average WQO	52		
Selenium, total	4-day average WQO	5	µg/L	Basin Plan, 2007b
	1-hour average WQO	20		
Silver, dissolved	1-hour average WQO	3.4	µg/L	Basin Plan, 2007b
Zinc, dissolved	1-hour average WQO	120	µg/L	Basin Plan, 2007b
	4-day average WQO	120		
Metals -- MUN only	***These Metals thresholds apply only to waters with MUN beneficial use assigned.***			
Manganese, total	Maximum	50	µg/L	Basin Plan, 2007b
Mercury, total	Maximum	2	µg/L	Basin Plan, 2007b
Organics				
PCBs	Freshwater Criterion Continuous Concentration	0.014	µg/L	CTR
Chlorpyrifos	4-day average (chronic)	0.015	µg/L	CVRWQCB, 2006
Dacthal (DCPA)	Instantaneous maximum AWQC	14300	µg/L	CVRWQCB, 2008
Diazinon	1-hour average	0.1	µg/L	SFBRWQCB, 2005
Disulfoton (Disyston)	Instantaneous maximum	0.05	µg/L	CVRWQCB, 2008

Analyte	***Description of Standard***	***Numeric Limit***	***Units***	***Reference***
Field measures				
	AWQC			
Endosulfan	Continuous 4-day average Instantaneous maximum	0.056 0.22	µg/L	CTR CTR
HCH, gamma- (gamma-BHC, Lindane)	Maximum 1-hour average	0.95	µg/L	CTR
Parathion, methyl	Instantaneous maximum AWQC	0.08	µg/L	CDFG
Thiobencarb	Instantaneous maximum AWQC	3.1	µg/L	CDFG
Pathogens – Water Contact Recreation (REC1)				
E. coli (freshwater)	Steady state (all areas) Designated beach (max)	126 235	MPN /100 mL	US EPA, 1986
Fecal coliform	Geometric mean 90th percentile	200 400	MPN /100 mL	Basin Plan, 2007b
Total coliform	Median Maximum	240 10000	MPN /100 mL	Basin Plan, 2007b
Coliforms – MUN only	***MUN thresholds are DOHS recommendations for surface water that serves as drinking water source.***			
Fecal coliform Total coliform	Geometric mean Geometric mean	<20 <100	MPN /100 mL	Basin Plan, 2007b
Toxicity -- Basin Plan	***Two-sample t-tests (one-tailed, alpha = 0.05) were performed on station data versus control data.***			
For *Ceriodaphnia and Pimephales*, the null hypothesis tested was that the station response was less than (less growth, survival, etc) the control response.		80	%	Basin Plan (2007b) - "There shall be no chronic/acute toxicity in ambient waters." (3.3.18)
For Selenastrum, where we are testing that station responses are greater than (more growth) or less than (less growth) the control, these two-sample tests have an alpha of 0.10.		80	%	

CTR - (Federal Register, Part III; EPA; 40 CFR Part 131 Water Quality Standards; Establishment of Numeric Criteria for Priority Toxic Pollutants for the State of California; Rule. May 18, 2000)

CDFG - California Department of Fish and Game, Office of Spill Prevention and Emergency Response, Hazard Assessment and Water Quality Criteria documents for pesticides (various dates), http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/sw/hazasm.htm

Table 2: Freshwater sediment quality pollutant thresholds for 303(d) data screening

SQG type:	**Probable effect concentration**		***Reference***
Analyte	*mg/kg*	*µg/kg*	
Metals			MacDonald et al. 2000
Arsenic	33		
Cadmium	4.98		
Chromium	111		
Copper	149		
Lead	128		
Mercury	1.06		
Nickel	48.6		
Zinc	459		
Organics			MacDonald et al. 2000
Anthracene		845	
Fluorene		536	
Naphthalene		561	
Phenanthrene		1170	
Benz(a)anthracene		1050	
Benzo(a)pyrene		1450	
Chrysene		1290	
Fluoranthene		2230	
Pyrene		1520	
PAH (total)		22800	
PCB (total)		676	
Chlordane		17.6	
Dieldrin		61.8	
DDD (sum op + pp)		28	
DDE (sum op + pp)		31.3	
DDT (sum op + pp)		62.9	
DDT (total)		572	
Endrin		207	
Heptachlor epoxide		16	
HCH, gamma		4.99	
Toxicity	***Two-sample t-tests (one-tailed, alpha = 0.05) were performed on station data versus control data.***		
For *Hyalella*, the null hypothesis tested was that the station response was less than (less growth, survival, etc) the control response. 80% of the control group was the threshold for sediment toxicity.			Basin Plan (2007b) - "There shall be no chronic/acute toxicity in ambient waters." (3.3.18)

3.2.2 Trash

Trash is not a new problem for the Bay Region, but it is a continuing problem both as an aesthetic nuisance, as a serious threat to aquatic life in tributaries, and as a threat to marine life in estuaries and oceans. Data suggest that plastic from trash persists for hundreds of years in the environment and can pose a threat to wildlife through ingestion, entrapment and entanglement, and this plastic can leach potentially harmful chemicals to the aquatic environment. During the 2002 303(d) listing update effort, Staff discussed the water quality impacts associated with trash at some length (SFRWQCB 2001). Water Board staff found that trash threatened water quality in all urban creeks, lakes, and shorelines. Rather than listing all urban creeks at that time, the Water Board urged municipalities to implement trash control measures, assess trash impairments in their jurisdictions and document these assessments in annual reports submitted to the Board. Since 2002, Water Board staff has developed, refined, and implemented (2002 through 2005) a rapid trash assessment method as part of SWAMP (SFBRWQCB 2007a). Other local entities, e.g., the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP), also collected trash assessment data. The water quality assessments for trash conducted for this 303(d) update are based on the results of the rapid trash assessment method and interpretation of data submitted by the public using a similar approach.

The data solicitation for this update resulted in the submission of a large quantity of trash-related data and accompanying requests for 303(d) listings. These data consisted mainly of photographs and narrative documentation on the status of trash levels for specific water bodies. In addition to these data, staff compiled and considered rapid trash assessment data collected by SWAMP as well as similar trash assessment data collected by SCVURPPP. The two types of trash data, photographs and trash assessment results, required distinct evaluation methodologies described below. Because there are no numeric water quality criteria for trash, the trash data were reviewed according to the "weight of evidence" guidelines established in section 3.11 of the Listing Policy. After reviewing these data in accordance with the Listing Policy, there were several water bodies for which we did not have compelling evidence to place them on the 303(d) list. These water bodies are identified in Table 3 below. The water bodies recommended for placement on the 303(d) list for trash impairment are identified in Table 4 below, and the lines of evidence are described in detail in the Fact Sheets (Appendix C).

Relevant Beneficial Uses and Water Quality Objectives

Several beneficial uses may be adversely impacted by trash, including recreation, aquatic life, wildlife habitat, and navigation. However, data were not readily available to allow staff to evaluate all beneficial uses possibly impaired by trash. Instead, we focused our review on evaluating impairment of the non-contact water recreation (REC-2) and wildlife habitat (WILD) beneficial uses, because these uses can be most easily evaluated through review of available trash data. Impairment of REC-2 can be readily evaluated based on the level of trash present. Impairment of WILD can be evaluated based on the level of certain types of trash associated with threat to wildlife, a beneficial use that implicitly includes aquatic life.

Beneficial uses adversely impacted by trash are, in turn, supported by the following set of narrative water quality objectives and Basin Plan prohibitions. The Basin Plan (Table 4-1, Prohibition Number 7) prohibits discharge of "rubbish, refuse, bark, sawdust, or other solid

wastes into surface waters or at any place where they would contact or where they would be eventually transported to surface waters, including flood plain areas." The Basin Plan (Section 3.3.6) also has a narrative objective for floating material, "waters shall not contain floating material, including solids, liquids, foams, and scum, in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses." Last, the Basin Plan (Section 3.3.13) has a narrative objective for settleable material, "waters shall not contain substances in concentrations that result in the deposition of material that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses."

Table 3: List of water bodies with insufficient evidence to establish trash impairment

Water Body	Designated/Potential Uses	Supporting Data
Adobe Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	RTA [1], Photos
Alamitos Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	RTA
Alhambra Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Photos
Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Photos
Arroyo Los Positas	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	RTA
Arroyo Mocho	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	RTA
Arroyo Seco	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Photos
Barron Basin	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	RTA
Berryessa Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	RTA
Calabazas Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Photos
Corte Madera Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Photos
Lagunitas Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	RTA
Las Trampas Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Photos
Lafayette Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Photos
Ledgewood Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Photos
Los Gatos Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	RTA, Photos
McCoy Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Photos
Pacheco Slough	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Photos
Randall Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	RTA
Rodeo Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	RTA
San Gregorio Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	RTA
San Ramon Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Photos
Sulphur Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Photos
Thompson Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	RTA
Upper Penitencia Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	RTA
Vista Grande Canal	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Photos
Walnut Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Photos
Wildcat Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	RTA
Yerba Buena Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	RTA

[1] RTA – Rapid Trash Assessment

Evaluation of Trash Assessment Results

The Water Board's rapid trash assessment method generates site-specific scores on a scale from 0 to 120, with higher scores indicating cleaner sites. The method also documents the number of pieces of trash per one hundred feet of stream or shoreline, and the rate of return of trash under different hydrologic conditions. The trash assessment protocol involves picking up and tallying all of the trash items found within the defined boundaries of a site. When repeated several times throughout a year, this procedure allows for the assessment of temporal changes in impairment, usage patterns, and trash deposition rates under wet and dry weather conditions (SFBRWQCB 2007a).

The Rapid Trash Assessment (RTA) method evaluates six parameters of trash impacts (level of trash, number of items found, threat to wildlife, threat to human health, illegal dumping, and trash accumulation). For purposes of determining impairment status, Water Board staff evaluated the magnitudes of the "level of trash" and "threat to aquatic life" parameters. If the "level of trash" parameter score fell in the 'poor condition category' (scores 0-5), REC-2 is deemed not supported. According to the RTA, the "poor condition" score corresponds to a level of trash that "distracts the eye on first glance. Stream, bank surfaces, and immediate riparian zone contain substantial levels of litter and debris (>100 pieces). This score suggests that the site is being used frequently by people: many cans, bottles, and food wrappers, blankets, clothing." SCVURPPP developed a similar "level of trash" parameter that can be interpreted similarly. Water Board staff reason that if there is sufficient trash to "distract the eye on first glance" and there are substantial levels of litter and debris, then the non-contact beneficial use would be impaired.

The second RTA parameter considered is the "threat to aquatic life" category. If this parameter score fell in the 'poor condition' category (scores 0-5), then WILD is deemed not supported. According to the RTA, the 'poor condition' score corresponds to a "large amount (>50 pieces) of transportable, persistent, buoyant litter (such as hard or soft plastics, balloons, styrofoam, cigarette butts); toxic items (such as batteries, lighters, or spray cans); large clumps of yard waste or dumped leaf litter; or large amount (>50 pieces) of settleable glass or metal."

Water Board staff used the "threat to aquatic life" parameter to assess impairment to wildlife habitat beneficial uses (WILD) because the type of trash measured by this parameter is particularly problematic for wildlife (including aquatic life). The two primary problems that trash poses to wildlife are entanglement and ingestion. Mammals, turtles, birds, fish, and crustaceans all have been affected by entanglement in or ingestion of floatable debris. Many of the species most vulnerable to the problems of floatable debris are endangered or threatened. Entanglement is harmful to wildlife because it can cause wounds that can lead to infections or loss of limbs and also cause strangulation, suffocation, drowning, or limited escape from predators (EPA 2002). Ingestion of trash can lead to starvation or malnutrition if the ingested items block the intestinal tract, preventing digestion, or accumulate in the digestive tract, making the animal feel "full" and lessening its desire to feed. Ingestion of sharp objects can damage the mouth, digestive tract and/or stomach lining and cause infection or pain. Ingested items can also block air passages and prevent breathing, thereby causing death (EPA 2002).

The Urban Rapid Trash Assessment (URTA) developed by SCVURPPP is a very slightly modified version of the original SWAMP RTA. It was modified to make it easier to apply in urban creeks, and the way in which category scores are interpreted was also modified. However, the URTA has an identical parameter assessing threat to aquatic life (wildlife) by characterizing the amount of "Transportable, Persistent, Buoyant Litter." If the raw score for this parameter fell in the marginal urban or poor condition category (scores 0-10, corresponding to a count of 76-200 pieces of such litter), then WILD is deemed not supported.

Although Water Board staff only considered the "level of trash" and "threat to aquatic life" parameters for determining impairment status, the SWAMP and SCVURPPP trash assessment methods have four additional parameters that can provide additional information about both the condition and cause of the trash encountered during assessment (SFBRWQCB 2007a). The assessments include a parameter indicating the total number of trash items counted on the 100-foot stream reach, both above and below the high water line. This is an efficient parameter to use to obtain a rough comparison of the trash impacts between sites, but it can be misleading because sometimes trash items are broken into many pieces, thus inflating the count.

The "threat to human health" parameter accounts for the number of items that are dangerous to humans who wade or swim in the water, and the presence of pollutants that could accumulate in fish in the downstream environment, such as mercury. The worst conditions for this parameter have the potential for the presence of dangerous bacteria or viruses, such as with medical waste, diapers, and human or pet waste. The "illegal dumping and littering" parameter relates to direct placement of trash items at a site, with "poor" conditions assigned to sites that appear to be dumping or littering locations based on adjacent land use practices or site accessibility. Finally, the "accumulation of trash" parameter can be used to distinguish trash that is transported from upstream locations from dumped trash. This is accomplished by noting indications of age and transport. Faded colors, silt marks, trash wrapped around roots, and signs of decay suggest downstream transport, indicating that the local drainage system facilitates conveyance of trash to water bodies.

Evaluation of Photographic Evidence for Trash

Nearly 900 photos of trash impacts were submitted and evaluated to make impairment determinations. These photos presented a fundamental impairment assessment challenge: how to interpret what can be seen in the photos relative to beneficial use impairment? The method we employed was to view the photos as if the water body was being assessed according to the RTA procedure. One of the co-authors of the RTA inspected every photograph and attempted to establish the RTA score for the "level of trash" and "threat to aquatic life" parameters, which relates to impairment of REC-2 and WILD, respectively. One of the first objectives of this photo inspection was to determine if the quantity and quality of the photos were sufficient to establish these parameter scores. Some photos were not clear enough to accomplish this.

In order to establish that the "Level of Trash" parameter was in the poor condition category, we required that reach-scale (i.e., showing most or all of the reach of the creek being photographed) and close-up photos of stream reaches must demonstrate a similar level of trashiness as the 'poor condition' category of the RTA assessment parameter. In other words,

we determined if the visual impression of the photos was consistent with the visual impression the evaluator might have experienced during actual RTA assessments for locations scoring in the ‘poor condition” category. A similar determination was made for each photo relative to the “threat to aquatic life” parameter.

Spatial and Temporal Representativeness of Trash Impairment

As a general rule, water bodies recommended for inclusion on the 303(d) list for trash are those for which there is evidence of trash problems persisting through space and time. We applied this rule to trash assessment data and photographic data. In order to recommend listing, we typically required both that the water body contain two or more sites that show evidence of trash impairment (according to assessment or photo documentation) and that evidence of trash impairment existed on two or more occasions. There were instances in which a listing recommendation was made based on data for multiple occasions but only at one location if there were no other data available, but these were very rare exceptions. For San Francisco Bay listings, if shoreline or creek mouth sites satisfied these data sufficiency requirements, we recommended that the applicable bay segment be listed. In fact, for the bay segments recommended for listing (Central and Lower), there were at least two shoreline or creek mouth locations with unacceptably high levels of trash.

3.3 Fact sheet development

Water Board staff developed a Fact Sheet for each water body - pollutant combination that resulted in a listing or delisting recommendation, summarizing the data used to make the decision, the criteria used, and the basic water body characteristics. Figure 1 shows a template provided by the State Board and lists all categories of information required to develop a fact sheet and characterize the cause of impairment.

Region:
Water Body Segment:

Pollutant:
Decision: *List/De-List*

Weight of Evidence
RWQCB Staff Recommendation

Line of Evidence:

Fraction:	*Options for this field are none, not recorded, total, dissolved (does not include suspended), and total dissolved.*
Matrix:	*Options for this field are tissue, water, sediment, N/A. This is the monitoring data sample medium.*
Beneficial use(s):	*Find appropriate beneficial use in your Region's Basin Plan.*
Water Quality Objective/Criteria:	*Find in Basin Plan or use CTR or other appropriate water quality objective or criterion and completely cite it here and reference where you found it.*
Evaluation Guideline:	*If the objective is narrative, use the appropriate evaluation guideline and completely cite it here and reference where you found it.*
Data Used to Assess Water Quality:	*Summarize data assessed here. What is the total number of samples? How many of these samples exceed the objective/criterion/guideline?*
Data References:	*Cite the data reference used for this assessment.*
Spatial Representation:	*Where were the samples collected? How many stations, etc?*
Temporal Representation:	*When were the samples collected? What was the sampling timeframe, etc?*
Water Body Specific Information:	*Environmental conditions or factors that might effect data used in assessment [e.g. Fire/Flood/Dry Year event, etc.]*
Data Quality Assessment	*Excellent, good, fair, poor, unknown, and none*
QAPP Information:	*Clearly describe the quality assurance plan or document that applies to the data used for this assessment. Reference the QA plan that was used. For example: "Quality Control for the chemical analysis portion of this study was conducted in accordance with Standard Operating Procedure QAQC001.00 (Segawa, 1995)."*

Figure 1: Fact sheet template for the 303(d) List

4 Listing Decisions

4.1 Proposed additions to the 303(d) list of impaired water bodies

Table 4 shows all proposed additions to the 303(d) list. Much more comprehensive information is available regarding these new proposed listings in the Fact Sheets (Appendix C). Locations of the water bodies evaluated as impaired during the 2008 listing period are shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3.

Table 4: Proposed 2008 additions to 303(d) list of impaired water bodies

Water Body	Beneficial Uses	Pollutant/ Cause of impairment
Almaden Lake	Commercial and Recreational Collection of Fish, Shellfish, or organisms	Mercury (tissue)[1]
Almaden Reservoir	Commercial and Recreational Collection of Fish, Shellfish, or organisms	Mercury (tissue)[1]
Arroyo Las Positas Creek	Warm Freshwater Habitat	Nutrient/Eutrophication Biological Indicators
Arroyo Mocho Creek	Cold Freshwater Habitat (potential)	Temperature
Codornices Creek	Cold Freshwater Habitat	Temperature
Kirker Creek	Warm Freshwater Habitat	Pyrethroids[2] Water Toxicity
Mount Diablo Creek	Cold Freshwater Habitat	Water Toxicity
Permanente Creek	Cold Freshwater Habitat	Selenium Water Toxicity
San Mateo Creek Lower	Wildlife Habitat	Sediment Toxicity
Stevens Creek	Cold Freshwater Habitat	Temperature
Suisun Creek	Cold Freshwater Habitat	Dissolved Oxygen Temperature
Old Alameda Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Trash
Baxter Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Trash
Cerrito Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Trash

[1] The Guadalupe River Watershed TMDL is expected to address this impairment

[2] San Francisco Bay Urban Creeks Diazinon TMDL approved by USEPA on 5/16/07 will address pyrethroids impairment in Kirker Creek.

Water Body	Beneficial Uses	Pollutant/ Cause of impairment
Codornices Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Trash
Colma Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Trash
Coyote Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Trash
Damon Slough	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Trash
Grayson Creek	Wildlife Habitat	Trash
Guadalupe River	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Trash
Kirker Creek	Wildlife Habitat	Trash
Matadero Creek	Wildlife Habitat	Trash
Permanente Creek	Wildlife Habitat	Trash
Petaluma River	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Trash
Rindler Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Trash
San Francisco Bay (Central) shoreline	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Trash
San Francisco Bay (Lower) shoreline	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Trash
San Francisquito Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Trash
San Leandro Creek Lower	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Trash
San Mateo Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Trash
San Pablo Creek	Non-Contact Recreation	Trash
San Tomas Creek	Wildlife Habitat	Trash
Saratoga Creek	Wildlife Habitat	Trash
Sausal Creek	Wildlife Habitat	Trash
Silver Creek	Wildlife Habitat	Trash
Stevens Creek	Wildlife Habitat	Trash
Strawberry Creek	Non-Contact Recreation and Wildlife Habitat	Trash

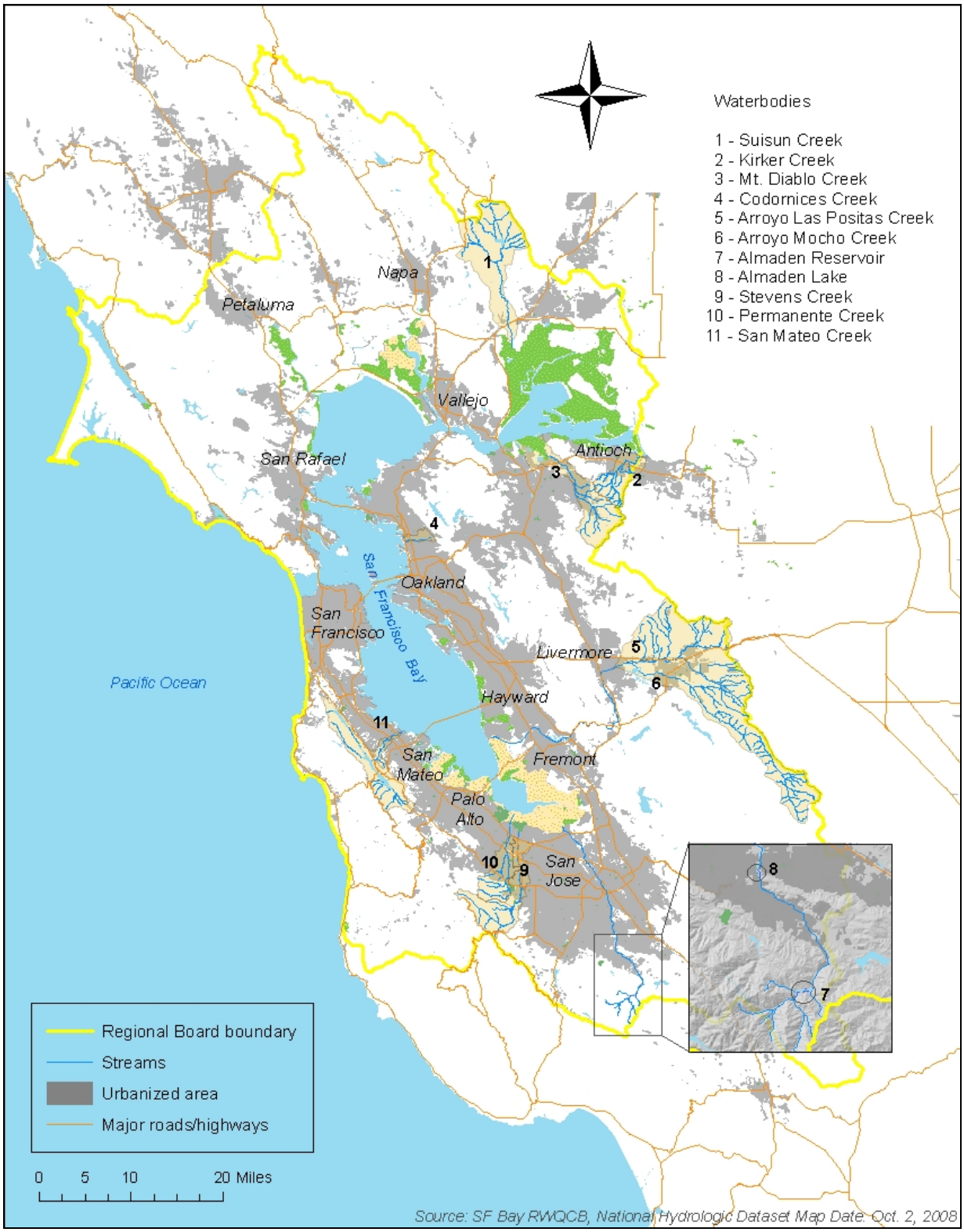

Figure 2: Proposed 2008 new 303(d) listings for toxicants and conventional pollutants

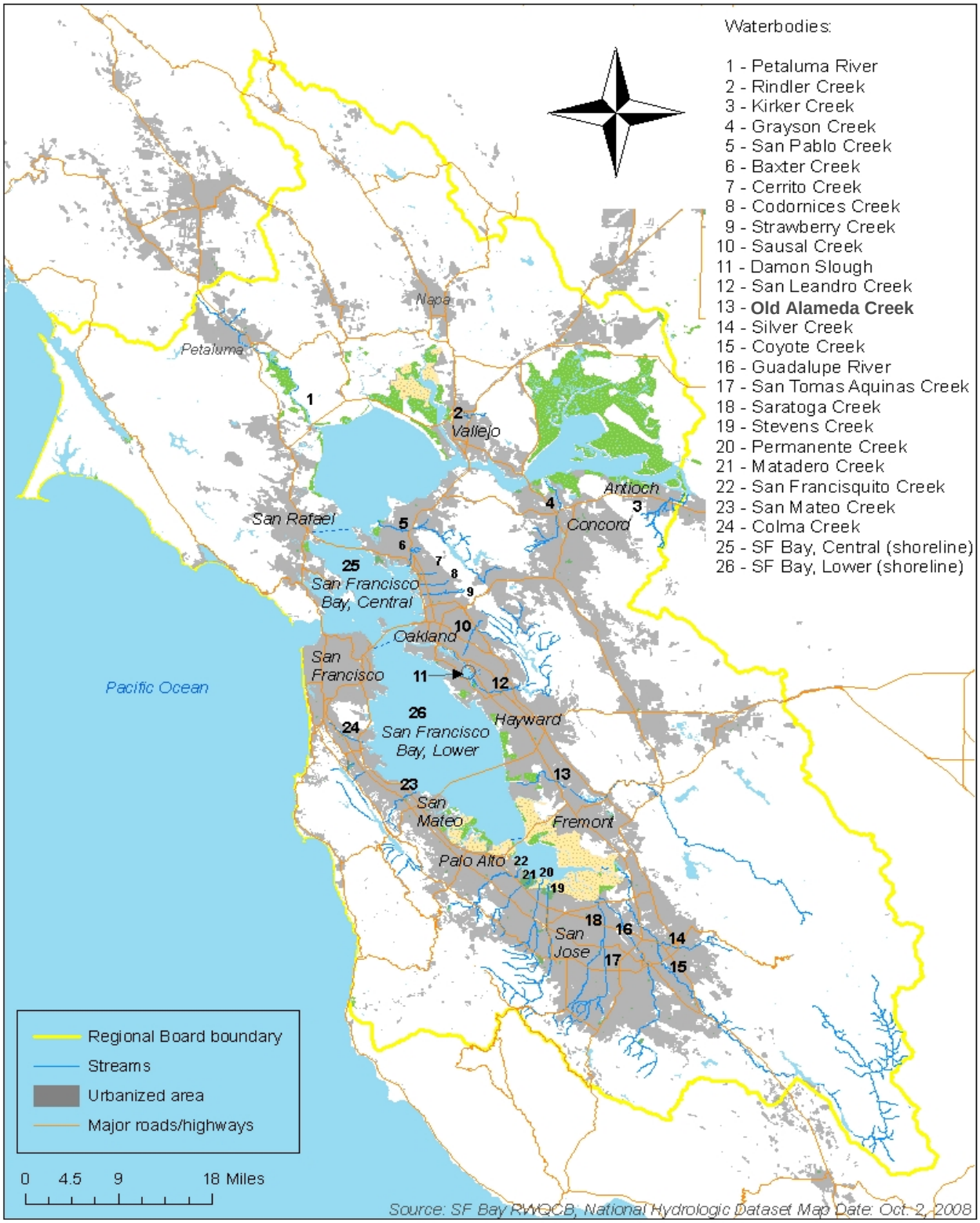

Figure 3: Proposed 2008 303(d) listings for trash

4.2 Proposed delisting and status change

Delist nickel in Sacramento San Joaquin Delta, San Pablo Bay, Suisun Bay

Based on the readily available data and information, there is strong justification for removing these water segment-pollutant combinations from the section 303(d) list in the Water Quality Limited Segments category. The Basin Plan contains nickel water quality objectives of 8.2µg/L as a 4-day average and 74µg/L as a 1-hour average. Data collected by the Regional Monitoring Program and Special Copper/Nickel study from 1993 through 2005 showed that none of the 59 analyzed water samples from the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta exceeded the water quality objectives, none of the 107 analyzed water samples from San Pablo Bay exceeded the water quality objectives, and none of the 96 analyzed water samples from Suisun Bay exceeded the objectives.

Change listing status: Castro Cove, Richmond (San Pablo Basin) - addressed by action other than TMDL

This water body was listed in 2006. Since that time a cleanup and abatement order (Order No. R2-2006-0078) requiring remediation of sediment contamination in the listed portion of Castro Cove was issued. The cleanup action involves removal of contaminated sediment and supports other abatement measures in place, such as the mercury TMDL approved by USEPA on February 12, 2008. Cleanup is underway and, upon its completion, it is expected that this water body will meet applicable water quality standards.

In November 2007, the Water Board received a Monitoring and Risk Management Plan that includes post-dredging confirmation monitoring to demonstrate that chemical contamination in the sediment has been reduced to levels that no longer pose unacceptable ecological risk. The cleanup completion is scheduled for 2010, and it is expected that this action will attain beneficial uses. Therefore, we recommend that Castro Cove be moved from the 303(d) list requiring a TMDL to the 303(d) list of water bodies being addressed by an action other than a TMDL.

4.3 TMDL schedule

All water body-pollutant combinations on the section 303(d) list are assigned with a proposed TMDL completion date. The maximum time that can elapse between 303(d) listing and TMDL completion is 13 years. Accordingly, we have assigned all new listings a TMDL completion date of 2021. This does not suggest that all new listings have the same priority, but rather that the factors determining TMDL priorities have not yet been evaluated as part of this listing process. These factors will be considered through our continuing planning process and with input from our Board and stakeholders. These factors include:

- Water body significance;
- Severity of pollution;
- Degree of impairment;

- Potential threat to human health and the environment;
- Water quality benefits of ongoing activities in the watershed;
- Potential for beneficial use protection and recovery;
- Degree of public concern;
- Availability of funding; and
- Availability of data and information to address the water quality problem.

4.4 Do-Not-List recommendations

This section presents two categories of water bodies for which a "do not list" decision was made. Table 5 lists good quality waters. For these waters there are sufficient data to determine that at least some beneficial uses are supported, and no data are available that suggest non-attainment of beneficial uses. Fact sheets for each of these recommendations are available online (Appendix C).

Table 5: Do Not List recommendations: Some beneficial uses supported

Water Body	Designated/Potential Uses	Supporting Data
Easkoot Creek	Aquatic Life/ Cold Freshwater Habitat	Benthic macroinvertebrate bioassessment Temperature Dissolved Oxygen
Pine Gulch Creek	Aquatic Life/ Cold Freshwater Habitat	Benthic macroinvertebrate bioassessment Temperature Dissolved Oxygen
Redwood Creek	Aquatic Life/ Cold Freshwater Habitat	Benthic macroinvertebrate bioassessment Temperature Dissolved Oxygen
Rodeo Creek	Aquatic Life/ Cold Freshwater Habitat	Benthic macroinvertebrate bioassessment Temperature Dissolved Oxygen
Tennessee Valley Creek	Aquatic Life/ Cold Freshwater Habitat	Benthic macroinvertebrate bioassessment Temperature Dissolved Oxygen
Webb Creek	Aquatic Life/ Cold Freshwater Habitat	Benthic macroinvertebrate bioassessment Temperature Dissolved Oxygen

Table 6 lists water body-pollutant combinations, for which there was insufficient information to determine whether or not water quality standards are being attained. In some cases, there

are a small number of water quality standard exceedances, but they are insufficient to demonstrate impairment in accordance with the Listing Policy. Thus, for these water body-pollutant combinations, more data should be collected to allow for a definitive determination in a subsequent listing cycle. The Fact Sheets for these water body-pollutant combinations, other than for trash assessment, are provided in Appendix C, online.

Table 6: Do Not List recommendations: Insufficient information to determine if beneficial uses are attained

Water Body	Designated/Potential Uses	Supporting Data
Arroyo Viejo Creek	Aquatic Life/ Warm Freshwater Habitat	Toxicity sediment Cr , Cu, As, Ni – sediment
Audubon Canyon Creek	Aquatic Life/ Cold Freshwater Habitat	Nitrate
Codornices Creek	Aquatic Life / Warm Freshwater Habitat	Dissolved oxygen
Glen Echo Creek	Aquatic Life/ Warm Freshwater Habitat	Toxicity sediment As, Cr, Cd, Cu, Pb, Hg, Ni – sediment Cu, Pb, Ni, Zn – water
Lion Creek	Aquatic Life/ Warm Freshwater Habitat	Dissolved oxygen
Lobos Creek	Aquatic Life/ Warm Freshwater Habitat	Toxicity water Toxicity sediment
Morses Gulch Creek	Aquatic Life/ Cold Freshwater Habitat	Nitrate
Mt Diablo Creek	Aquatic Life / Warm Freshwater Habitat	Dissolved oxygen Toxicity sediment
Peralta Creek	Aquatic Life / Warm Freshwater Habitat	Toxicity sediment Pyrethroids Diazinon
Permanente Creek	Aquatic Life / Cold Freshwater Habitat	Toxicity sediment
San Leandro Creek, Lower	Aquatic Life / Warm Freshwater Habitat	Chromium
Stevens Creek	Aquatic Life / Warm Freshwater Habitat	Dissolved oxygen
Temescal Creek	Aquatic Life/ Warm Freshwater Habitat	Toxicity water Cu, Pb, Ni, Zn – water
Walker Creek	Aquatic Life / Cold Freshwater Habitat	Temperature

4.5 Editorial revisions to the 2006 303(d) list

In addition to the proposed status changing actions, we reviewed and clarified the decision language for water bodies on the 303(d) list adopted in 2006. In particular, careful consideration was given to updating the expected schedules for TMDL completion. In addition, the updated list reflects U.S. EPA approval of TMDLs adopted since the 2006 303(d) list was approved. All of these revisions are editorial in nature and do not change the listing status of any water body. These revisions to the 2006 303(d) list of impaired water bodies are shown in Appendix C, online.

5 303(d)/305(b) Integrated Report

The 303(d)/305(b) Integrated Report will be prepared by State Board based on the information submitted in this report and similar information prepared by all the other Regions. The Integrated Report will then be submitted to the U.S. EPA. All of the assessments reflected in the Fact Sheets included in this report will be used to determine which category to assign to the evaluated water bodies. Additional Fact Sheets may be prepared for non-303(d) listed water bodies for inclusion in the Integrated Report.

The US EPA defines five non-overlapping categories for use in the integrated assessment (USEPA 2005). These categories include:

Category 1: All designated uses are supported, no use is threatened;

Category 2: Available data and/or information indicate that some, but not all of the designated uses are supported (see Table 5 above);

Category 3: There is insufficient available data and/or information to make a use support determination (see Table 6 above);

Category 4: Available data and/or information indicate that at least one designated use is not being supported or is threatened, but a TMDL is not needed; and

Category 5: Available data and/or information indicate that at least one designated use is not being supported or is threatened, and a TMDL is needed (Table 4 above).

The 2008 Integrated Report adopted by State Board will include the 303(d) listing changes approved by each Regional Water Board. Categories 4 and 5 reflect those water bodies placed on the 303(d) list.

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APPENDIX C

WATER BODY FACT SHEETS

available online at

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/TMDLs/303dlist.shtml