



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
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## **SUBJECT: Draft Staff Report, Review of Methylmercury Discharges from NPDES Facilities in California's Central Valley**

The draft staff report, *Review of Methylmercury Discharges from NPDES Facilities in California's Central Valley*, is now available on the Internet at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/tmdl/central\\_valley\\_projects/delta\\_hg/other\\_technical\\_reports/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/tmdl/central_valley_projects/delta_hg/other_technical_reports/index.shtml)

The draft report provides a review of the available influent and effluent methylmercury and total mercury data for 112 facilities permitted by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) in the Central Valley. If you would like to provide comments on the draft report, please submit them to staff of Central Valley Water Board by **15 June 2009**. The report will be finalized at the close of the comment period.

Staff developed this technical report to support the development and implementation of mercury control programs for the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta Estuary (Delta) and its tributaries. Water bodies on the federal Clean Water Act 303(d) list for mercury impairment include the Delta, the Sacramento, San Joaquin, American, and Feather Rivers; Putah and Marsh Creeks, and many tributaries in these watersheds. Elevated levels of methylmercury in fish pose a risk for human and wildlife fish consumers. Some of the waterways have fish consumption advisories warning people to limit their consumption of locally caught fish. The Clean Water Act requires States to establish a "Total Maximum Daily Load" (TMDL) for each impaired water body that describes the reductions needed to protect beneficial uses, and Section 13240 of the State of California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act requires Regional Water Boards to implement control programs to achieve those reductions.

The draft staff report provides a review of the data submitted by facilities as well as data from other monitoring efforts. This report is a data summary; no policy or regulation is either expressed or intended.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Michelle Wood at (916-464-4650 or [mlwood@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:mlwood@waterboards.ca.gov)) or me at 916-464-4621. Please submit written comments to the letterhead address or [mlwood@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:mlwood@waterboards.ca.gov) or [pmorris@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:pmorris@waterboards.ca.gov).

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