

## SECTION VII. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. Background:

1. Name of Proponent: State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCE)
2. Address and Phone Number of Proponent: Division of Water Quality  
P.O. Box 944213, Sacramento, CA 94244-2130 (916) 657-1125
3. Date Checklist Submitted: ~~September 12, 1997~~ ~~November 15, 1999~~ January 31, 2000
4. Agency Requiring Checklist: ~~Resources Agency~~ SWRCE
5. Name of Proposal, if Applicable: Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California

B. Environmental Impacts:

(Explanations are included on attached sheets).

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I.	<u>LAND USE AND PLANNING.</u>				
	Would the proposal:				
	a. Conflict with general plan designation or zoning?	[]	[]	[]	[x]
	b. Conflict with applicable environmental plans or policies adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over the project?	[]	[]	[]	[X]
	c. Be incompatible with existing land use in the vicinity?	[]	[]	[]	[X]
	d. Affect agriculture resources or operations (e.g., impacts to soils or farmlands, or impacts from incompatible land uses)?	[]	[]	[]	[x]
	e. Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including a low-income or minority community)?	[]	[]	[]	[x]
II.	<u>POPULATION AND HOUSING.</u>				
	Would the proposal:				
	a. Cumulatively exceed official regional or local population projections?	[]	[]	[]	[x]
	b. Induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectly (e.g., through projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)?	[]	[]	[]	[x]
	c. Displace existing housing, especially affordable housing?	[]	[]	[]	[x]
III.	<u>GEOLOGIC PROBLEMS.</u>				
	Would the proposal result in or expose people to potential impacts involving:				
	a. Fault rupture?	[]	[]	[]	[x]

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b. Seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Seismic ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Seiche, tsunami, or volcanic hazard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Landslides or mudflows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Erosion, changes in topography or unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading or fill?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Subsidence of the land?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h. Expansive soils?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i. Unique geologic or physical features?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
IV. <u>WATER.</u>				
Would the proposal result in:				
a. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Discharge into surface water or other alteration of surface water quality (e.g. temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Changes in currents or the course or direction of surface water movements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations or through substantial loss of ground water recharge capability?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Altered direction or rate of flow of ground water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h. Impacts to ground water quality?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Substantial reduction in the amount of ground water otherwise available for public water supplies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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<b>V. <u>AIR QUALITY.</u></b>				
Would the proposal:				
a. Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Expose sensitive receptors to pollutants?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Alter air movement, moisture, or temperature, or cause any change in climate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Create objectionable odors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>VI. <u>TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION.</u></b>				
Would the proposal result in:				
a. Increased vehicle trips or traffic congestion?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Hazards to safety from design features (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Insufficient parking capacity on-site or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Rail, waterborne or air traffic impacts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Conflicts with adopted policies supporting transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicyclists racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>VII. <u>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.</u></b>				
Would the proposal result in impacts to:				
a. Endangered, threatened or rare species or their habitats (including but not limited to plants, fish, insects, animals, and birds)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Locally designated species?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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c. Locally designated natural communities (e.g. oak forest, coastal habitat, etc.)?	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
d. Wetland habitat (e.g. marsh, riparian and vernal pool)?	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
e. Wildlife dispersal or migration corridors?	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
<b>VIII. <u>ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES.</u></b>				
Would the proposal:				
a. Conflict with adopted energy conservation plans?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[x]
b. Use non-renewable resources in a wasteful and inefficient manner?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[x]
c. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the State?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[x]
<b>IX. <u>HAZARDS.</u></b>				
Would the proposal involve:				
a. A risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to: oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation)?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[x]
b. Possible interference with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[x]
c. The creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[x]
d. Exposure of people to existing sources of potential health hazards?	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
e. Increased fire hazard in areas with flammable brush, grass, or trees?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[x]
<b>X. <u>NOISE.</u></b>				
Would the proposal result in:				
a. Increases in existing noise levels?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[x]
b. Exposure of people to severe noise levels?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[x]

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<b>XI. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES.</u></b>				
Would the proposal have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered government services in any of the following areas:				
a. Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Other governmental services?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>XII. <u>UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.</u></b>				
Would the proposal result in a need for new systems or supplies or substantial alterations to the following utilities:				
a. Power or natural gas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Communications systems?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Local or regional water treatment or distribution facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Sewer or septic tanks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Storm water drainage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Solid waste disposal?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Local or regional water supplies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>XIII. <u>AESTHETICS.</u></b>				
Would the proposal:				
a. Affect a scenic vista or scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Have a demonstrable negative aesthetic effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Create light or glare?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>XIV. <u>CULTURAL RESOURCES.</u></b>				
Would the proposal:				
a. Disturb paleontological resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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b. Disturb archaeological resources?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[x]
c. Affect historical resources?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[x]
d. Have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[x]
e. Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[x]
<b>XV. RECREATION</b>				
Would the proposal:				
a. Increase the demand for neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[x]
b. Affect existing recreational opportunities?	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
<b>XVI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.</b>				
a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community. Reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
b. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage or long-term, environmental goals?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[x]
c. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	[x]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
d. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings,	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

either directly or indirectly?

C. DETERMINATION

Based on the evaluation in FED Section VI, I find that only one of the proposed Policy issues could have a significant adverse effect on the environment: compliance schedules.

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Date

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Stan Martinson, Chief  
Division of Water Quality  
State Water Resources Control Board

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

I.a.,b.,c.,e. Land use and planning (e.g., general plans and zoning) delineate those areas that will be developed, and the type and density of development to be allowed. There is nothing in the proposed Policy that requires property to be used in any way or prohibits property uses.

I.d. The regulation of nonpoint source toxic substances such as pesticides could impact farming operations. However, the SWRCB is not changing its **three-tiered** approach to nonpoint source regulation, ~~outlined in its Nonpoint Source Management Plan (NPS Plan)~~. The SWRCB and RWQCBs will continue to work with nonpoint source dischargers under **this approach** ~~the existing NPS Plan~~. See Section VI, Chapter 1, Part 5.2, Nonpoint Source Discharges.

II.a.,b.,c.;XV.a. See FED Section VI, Chapter 3, Growth-Inducing Impacts.

III.a.,b.,d. These geologic actions are caused by plate tectonics, not by water pollution. However, people could potentially be exposed to such impacts during the construction or operation of new facilities to treat water pollution. If the proposed Policy caused dischargers to build and operate additional new facilities or substantially alter existing facilities, these potential impacts would be considered for the proposed action. However, the Policy is not expected to require dischargers to take such compliance actions. See FED Section VI, Chapter 2, Reasonable Means of Compliance.

III.c. Liquefaction occurs in the subsurface when the mechanical behavior of a granular material is transformed from a solid state to a liquid state due to loss of grain-to-grain contact during earthquake shaking. It occurs most often in areas underlain by saturated, unconsolidated sediments. Seismic ground failure is not caused or affected by water pollution.

III.e.,f.,g.,i.;V.a.,b.,d.;VI.a.,b.,c.,d.,e.,f.,g.;VIII.a.,b.,IX.a.,b.,e.;X.a.,b.;XI.a.,b.,c.,d.,e.;XII.a.,b.,f.;XIII.a.,b.,c.;XIV.a.,b.,c.,d.,e. Landslides, erosion, impacts to transportation systems, energy impacts, odors, impacts to public services and utilities, impacts to wildlife areas, and impacts to aesthetics or cultural resources could occur during the construction or operation of new facilities to treat water pollution. If the proposed Policy caused dischargers to build and operate additional new facilities or substantially alter existing facilities, these potential impacts would be considered for the proposed action. However, the proposed Policy is not expected to require dischargers to take such **additional** compliance actions. See FED Section VI, Chapter 2, Reasonable Means of Compliance.

III.h. Expansion of soils is influenced by amount of moisture change and the type of soil (the amount of clay in the soil, and the type of minerals in the clay). Shrink-swell is measured by the volume change in the soil. Water pollutants do not significantly affect the shrink-swell capacity of soils.

IV.a.,b.,d.,e.,f.,g.,i. Levels of toxic substances do not affect absorption rates, drainage patterns, surface runoff, flooding, quantity of surface or ground water, surface water currents, or ground water flow or supply. These impacts could occur if the proposed Policy would cause dischargers to take additional actions to modify their operations for compliance purposes. However, the proposed Policy is not expected to require dischargers to take such additional compliance actions. See FED Section VI, Chapter 2, Reasonable Means of Compliance.

IV.c.;VII.a.,b.,c.,d.,e.;IX.d.;XV.b.;XVI.a.,d. Only one issue (compliance schedules) in the proposed Policy has the potential to cause significant adverse effects to water quality; biological resources, including plants and animals and threatened or endangered species; and human health. See FED Section VI, Potentially Significant Effects, for an analysis of effects of each of the proposed Policy issues on surface water quality and the



achievement of human health and aquatic life criteria/objectives. The issue of compliance schedules is discussed in Chapter 1, Issue 2.1, Section VI of the FED.

IV.h. As stated above, only one issue (compliance schedules) has the potential to cause significant adverse effects to surface water quality. This could result in some effects to ground water quality in "losing streams" where surface water percolates to ground water.

V.c. The proposed Policy does not involve or affect temperature, humidity, precipitation, winds, cloudiness, or other atmospheric conditions.

VIII.c. The proposed Policy does not involve or affect the mining of mineral resources.

XII.c.,d.,e.,g. Effects on water utility and service systems could potentially occur if the proposed Policy would cause dischargers to have to take additional compliance actions that involved construction or substantial alterations to treatment facilities. However, the Policy is not expected to require dischargers to take such compliance actions. See FED Section VI, Chapter 2, Reasonable Means of Compliance. Also see Section VI analysis regarding storm water.

XVI.b.,c. See FED Section VI, Chapter 4, regarding cumulative and long-term impacts.