

## High Receiving Water Risk Watershed GIS Methodology

### **Objective:**

To provide guidance for the designation of watersheds as “high risk” with regards to the two part Risk Level Determination in the Construction General Permit. The guidance enables a discharger to identify the Receiving Water Risk for a construction project. Highlighted watersheds on the map are considered High Receiving Water Risk.

### **Background:**

High Receiving Water Risk Watersheds are Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) Level 12 watersheds that drain to waterbodies that are either 1) 303(d) listed as being impaired for sediment/siltation, 2) have a US Environmental Protection Agency-approved, sediment-related Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), or 3) have the existing beneficial uses of SPAWN, MIG, **and** COLD according to the most recent applicable Regional Board Basin Plan. A combination of HUC Level 10 watershed boundaries and physical barriers (e.g. dams) were used to delineate the upstream extent of High Receiving Water Risk Watersheds. A project located within a High Receiving Water Risk Watersheds is considered to have a high receiving water risk. Identifying High Receiving Water Risk Watersheds reduces the confusion over direct vs. indirect discharges and questions regarding upstream extent. For more information on the Construction General Permit please visit: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/construction.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/construction.shtml)

### **Data and Method:**

High Receiving Water Risk Watersheds were created using the California waterbodies and HUC Level 12 watersheds included in the National Hydrography Dataset, (NHD) (available at: <http://datagateway.nrcs.usda.gov/>) in conjunction with waterbodies identified in the 303(d) lists and in the Regional Water Board Basin Plans. Information from the 303(d) lists and Basin Plans were georeferenced to the NHD data to create the High Receiving Water Risk Watersheds.

High Receiving Water Risk Watersheds are updated with changes to the 303(d) sediment listings or the Regional Board Basin Plans. An interactive map showing the current 303(d) - listed waterbodies can be found at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtml?wbid=CAR4033100020050918175233](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtml?wbid=CAR4033100020050918175233)

Regional Board Basin Plans can be found at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans\\_policies/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans_policies/)

### **Contact:**

Please contact the Storm Water help desk with any questions or comments:

- Phone: 916-341-5537
- Email: [stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov)

Geographic Information System (GIS) Data can be accessed at:

[https://ftp.waterboards.ca.gov/?u=GIS\\_Shared&p=GIS\\_Download&path=/swrcb/dwq/cgp/Risk/](https://ftp.waterboards.ca.gov/?u=GIS_Shared&p=GIS_Download&path=/swrcb/dwq/cgp/Risk/)

# High Risk Receiving Watersheds

