



**Linda S. Adams**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

# State Water Resources Control Board

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**Arnold Schwarzenegger**  
Governor

## **NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION (BASIN PLAN) TO ESTABLISH A WATER QUALITY ATTAINMENT STRATEGY AND TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) FOR DIAZINON AND PESTICIDE-RELATED TOXICITY IN BAY AREA URBAN CREEKS**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT** the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will now accept comments on a proposed Basin Plan amendment that would establish a program to control pesticide-related toxicity (including diazinon) in Bay Area urban creeks. The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Francisco Bay Water Board) adopted the proposed amendment on November 16, 2005 under Resolution R2-2005-0063. The State Water Board expects to consider the proposed amendment for approval at a future meeting in 2006. Notice of that meeting will be published separately. The meeting agenda item, including the draft resolution and proposed amendment language, will be available on the State Water Board's website at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/tmdl/tmdl.html>, or by request.

Thirty-seven urban creeks in the San Francisco Bay Region were identified in 1998 under federal Clean Water Act § 303(d)(1) as not meeting narrative water quality standards for toxicity to aquatic life attributed to diazinon. Diazinon is a broad-spectrum organophosphorus pesticide used to control a variety of insect pests, such as ants.

Although the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency phased out most urban diazinon applications at the end of 2004, the substitute pesticides being used in its place may now pose potential water and sediment quality concerns. Pesticides, including diazinon, enter urban creeks mainly through urban runoff after being applied outdoors for landscape maintenance, structural pest control, agricultural uses, and other pest management purposes. Factors that affect pesticide concentrations in urban creeks include: the amount used; the chemical and physical properties of the pesticide and its product formulation; the sites of use (e.g., landscaping, turf, or paved surfaces); and irrigation practices and precipitation.

Placement on the 303(d) list requires that a plan (a TMDL) be developed to control the identified pollutants and ensure that standards are met. The proposed amendment establishes a water quality attainment strategy and TMDL for diazinon and pesticide-related toxicity in the Region's urban creeks. The TMDL includes actions and monitoring necessary to implement the attainment strategy. The San Francisco Bay Water Board decided to apply the attainment strategy and TMDL to all urban creeks in the Region, including those not formally listed on the 303(d) list, because all the

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Region's urban creeks can reasonably be assumed to receive similar pesticide discharges and because implementation actions will be most efficient if applied region-wide.

The proposed amendment sets numeric targets for pesticide-related acute and chronic toxicity in urban creek water and sediment. In addition, the proposed amendment establishes a concentration-based target for diazinon in the water column. The cornerstone of the attainment strategy is pollution prevention, which can be accomplished by using less-toxic pest control methods and by applying integrated pest management techniques. Implementation of the strategy will focus on (1) regulatory programs, (2) education and outreach, and (3) research and monitoring. The San Francisco Bay Water Board plans to review the attainment strategy and TMDL every five years to determine if any modifications are necessary.

Letters commenting on this proposed amendment must be received by 5 p.m. on September 22, 2006. After this deadline, the State Water Board will not accept additional written comments unless the State Water Board determines that such comments should be accepted or unless changes are made to the proposed resolution prior to the State Water Board meeting where this proposed amendment will be considered. Please address your comments to: Song Her, Clerk to the Board, and send by email to [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov), by fax to (916) 341-5620, or by mail to State Water Resources Control Board, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. Please also indicate in the subject line "Comment Letter - Plan to control pesticide-related toxicity in Bay Area urban creeks."

Please direct questions about this notice to Joanna Jensen, Division of Water Quality, at (916) 341-5557 or [JJensen@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:JJensen@waterboards.ca.gov) or to Steven H. Blum, Senior Staff Counsel, at (916) 341-5177 or [SBlum@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:SBlum@waterboards.ca.gov).

August 24, 2006

Date



Song Her  
Clerk to the Board