

San Francisco Bay Basin Plan Triennial Review Public Workshop

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Overview

- What is a Basin Plan Triennial Review?
- Water Board staff review of issue areas
 - Priority projects from last triennial review
 - Review of beneficial uses
 - Review of water quality objectives
 - Updates to the implementation plan
 - Updates to plans and policies
- Discussion and next steps

What is a Basin Plan?

Master Planning Document for Water Board

➤ Regulatory

- Beneficial uses, water quality objectives
- Implementation plan [effluent limits, discharge prohibitions, permit programs, TMDLs]

➤ Information

- Maps, tables, plans and policies, program descriptions, and related regulations

What is a Triennial Review?

- Clean Water Act Section 303(c)(1): *a state's water quality standards shall be reviewed every three years*
- Planning Workplan (non-TMDL)
- Elements of the review process:
 - Attainability of existing standards and associated implementation programs
 - Indicators of environmental degradation and need for additional protection
 - Regulatory implementation program updates

What is a Triennial Review? (cont.)

- Formal process for interested parties to provide input to the Water Board workplan for Basin Planning
- Interested parties include:
 - The public: organizations and individuals
 - California Native American tribes
 - Regulated community

Review of 2015 Workplan

Project	Status
Review and Refine Dissolved Oxygen Objectives for San Francisco Bay	Suisun Marsh TMDL completed Additional work ongoing
Climate Change and Water Resources Policy	Work ongoing
Using Wastewater to Create, Restore, and Enhance Wetlands	Work ongoing

Review of 2015 Workplan

Project	Status
Develop Numeric Nutrient Endpoints (NNEs) in Freshwater Streams and Estuaries	Work ongoing
Develop Nutrient Water Quality Objectives for San Francisco Bay Estuary – Support Implementation of the Nutrient Management Strategy	Work ongoing
Lake Merced Dissolved Oxygen and pH Objectives	Project delayed
Miscellaneous Changes – corrected beneficial use abbreviations, updated and corrected footnotes to several tables in Chapter 3	Completed as part of Suisun Bay TMDL

2018 Triennial Review Topics

- Update beneficial uses
- Update water quality objectives
- Update implementation plan
- Update plans and policies
- Minor editorial revisions

Update Beneficial Uses

- Add unnamed water bodies receiving discharges
 - Some waters in NPDES permits, but not in Basin Plan
- Addition of sportfishing (COMM) use to lakes
 - COMM is impaired when fish not safe to eat
- Align Ocean Plan and Basin Plan relative to REC1
 - Basin Plan lacks detail about REC1 applicability to ocean

Update Beneficial Uses (cont.)

- Stream & wetland protection project
 - Add clarity to implementation chapter to protect systems
- Modification of groundwater sub-basin boundaries
 - Aim is to achieve consistency with DWR Bulletin 118
- Designate new tribal and subsistence fishing uses
 - need to document use for specific waterbodies

Update Water Quality Objectives

Statewide and Federal Objectives

- Update toxicity testing requirements
- Revise pentachlorophenol WQ objectives
- Develop numeric nutrient endpoints (freshwater and estuaries)
- Incorporate U.S. EPA REC bacteria criteria

Update Water Quality Objectives

Statewide and Federal Objectives (cont)

- Review un-ionized ammonia objective for SF Bay
- Incorporate statewide mercury objectives into Basin Plan
- Consider incorporating U.S. EPA 304(a) criteria

Update Water Quality Objectives

Regional Issues

- Review site-specific oxygen objectives for SF Bay
 - Extend Suisun Marsh approach elsewhere
- Implement stream biological assessment tools
 - Work on region-specific biological metrics
- Lake Merced dissolved oxygen and pH objectives
 - Site-specific objectives for urban SF lake

Update Water Quality Objectives

Regional Issues (continued)

- Clarify implementation requirements for municipal and agricultural water supply
- Temperature limits for salmonids
- Develop flow criteria

Update Implementation Plans

- Screening levels for groundwater cleanup
 - Would focus attention on significant contaminant concerns
- Use wastewater to create, restore, and enhance wetlands
 - Existing policies and permitting issues currently impede use
- Update cyanide dilution credits
 - Develop dilution credit for currently missing waterbodies
- Revise instantaneous chlorine limit for wastewater
 - Change to a water-quality based limit
 - Some project scoping has already begun

Update Plans and Policies

TMDL Projects we are working on

Petaluma River Bacteria

San Gregorio Creek Sediment

Stevens Creek Toxicity

San Francisco Bay Beaches (additional beach listings)

Pescadero Marsh Dissolved Oxygen

Pillar Point Harbor Bacteria

Statewide Mercury Control Program in Reservoirs

Update Plans and Policies (cont)

➤ Climate change and water resources policy

- Examining 3 policy areas:
 - Regulating wetland fill, ecosystem restoration and flood protection intelligently in consideration of sea level rise;
 - Using highly-treated wastewater and stormwater in tidal marshes
 - Beneficial re-use of sediment
- Future project phases could explore other needed Basin Plan changes

Minor Editorial Revisions

- Clarify turbidity water quality objective
 - Make language easier to interpret & consistent with turbidity objectives in other Basin Plans.
- Other editorial changes
 - Update discussion related to discharges to Areas of Special Biological Significance
 - Update section on urban stormwater implementation
 - Update non-regulatory language on WWTPs

Next Steps

- Written feedback due **Friday June 8**
 - **Email to Rlooker@waterboards.ca.gov**
- Meeting summary posted to website
- We develop ranked priority project list
- Board hearing on workplan in fall 2018

Your turn to give feedback

- Please raise hand to speak
 - Moderator will recognize you
- Please state name and affiliation for notes
- Consider feedback on:
 - Your support or opposition to projects
 - Changes to scope of existing projects
 - Suggestions for additional projects