



## Triggering Antidegradation Analysis

*"Whenever the existing quality of water is better than the quality established in policies as of the date on which such policies became effective, such existing high quality will be maintained..." (SWRCB Res. 68-16)*

Existing Water Quality (EWQ) = Current Quality (representative of the waterbody accounting for spatial & temporal variability)

Baseline Water Quality (BWQ) = Best Water Quality that has existed since...

(a) The date the relevant Water Quality Objective (WQO) became effective

- i. Nitrate (1972-75?)
- ii. EC (date Table 64449B from Title-22 incorporated by reference?)

(b) 1968 when Resolution 68-16 was considered and adopted [APU-90-004]

(c) Unless, permitted discharges were authorized to lower water quality thereby establishing a "new" baseline threshold for subsequent antidegradation analyses

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- 1) If Discharge Quality (DQ) is better than BWQ, then no antideg analysis is required because discharge is not expected to lower water quality (assumes BWQ is known).
  - 2) If EWQ worse than WQO, then there is no Assimilative Capacity available.
  - 3) EWQ better than WQO = "High Quality Water" and Assimilative Capacity is available.

If BWQ is Unknown; then further Antidegradation Analysis is always required...

Scenario A) If DQ is better than EWQ then a simple antideg analysis is acceptable because discharge is expected to improve EWQ

Scenario B) If DQ is worse than EWQ then a complete antideg analysis is necessary because discharge is expected to reduce EWQ