

Triennial Review

Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins

Betty Yee, Senior Engineer
9 August 2011

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Central Valley Region



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Basin Plans

- California Water Code
 - Water Bodies
 - Beneficial Uses
 - Water Quality Objectives
 - Implementation Program
- Federal Clean Water Act
 - Water Quality Standards

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Triennial Review Regulations

- State Requirements
- Federal Requirements

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Triennial Review Process

- Public Notice for Workshop
- Public Workshop
 - Comments from Public
- Response to Comments & Workplan
- Public Notice for Hearing & Review
- Public Hearing & Meeting (October 2011)
- USEPA

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Triennial Review Workplan

14 Issues

14. Groundwater Survey and Control Policies

Low Priority

13. Current USEPA Criteria

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High Priority Issues (Participation in Statewide Issues):

Issue No. 12 (examples)

Onsite Waste Water Treatment Regulations

Addressing methyl mercury impairments

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High Priority Issues:

1. Salt & Nitrate Management
2. Effluent Dominated Water Bodies
3. Agricultural Dominated Water Bodies
4. Beneficial Use Designations
5. Delta Issues
6. Dissolved Oxygen in the San Joaquin River
7. Pesticide Control Efforts
8. Mercury Control Programs
9. Maintaining Quality of Drinking Water
10. Protection of Central Valley Fisheries & Other Aquatic Uses
11. Secondary MCLs

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Issues relevant to salt and nitrates:

- Beneficial Use Designations
 - Groundwater in vicinity of Hodson/Littlejohns Fault Zone
- Maintaining Water Quality of Drinking Water
- Secondary MCLs
- Salt & Nitrate Management
 - CV-SALTS efforts
 - Salt and Boron Water Quality Objectives for the San Joaquin River upstream of Vernalis
 - Variance Policy and Interim Salinity Program

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Variance Policy and Interim Salt Program

- Necessity
 1. CV-SALTS and Bay-Delta Plan might revise beneficial uses and water quality objectives
 2. NPDES permits and WDRs require meeting effluent limits to achieve the current water quality objectives
 - For some domestic wastewater treatment plants, reverse osmosis is only treatment
 3. Need to set effluent limits so that water quality is protected but dischargers are not committed to spending major resources that might be unnecessary.

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Variance Policy and Interim Salt Program

- Problem
 - Only tool is compliance schedules.
 - For NPDES, compliance schedules cannot be used to provide time to evaluate beneficial uses and water quality objectives.

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Variance Policy and Interim Salt Program

- Possible Solution
 - Variances
 - 2-part process
 - Part 1 is Authority
 - Part 2 is individual variances or a programmatic approach
 - Consistency
 - Parallel process for WDRs.

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Variance Policy and Interim Salt Program

- More Information
 - Webpage:
 - http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/variances/index.shtml
 - Notifications:
 - Email Subscription (select "Variances"):
 - http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg5_subscribe.shtml

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What Happens Next

- Circulation of Responses and Workplan
(Written comments due 8/29/2011)
- Public Hearing (October 2011)
- Submit to USEPA
- Implement workplan over next 3 years.

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Further Information

Webpage:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/triennialreviews.shtml

Contact Info:

Betty Yee

byee@waterboards.ca.gov

916-464-4643

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