

INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Public Scoping Meeting for Proposed Amendment to
California Water Quality Control Policy for Developing California's Clean Water Act
Section 303(d) List

February 2010

Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
California Environmental Protection Agency

Introduction

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is proposing an amendment to the Water Quality Control Policy for Developing California's Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List (Listing Policy). The amendment will incorporate listing criteria for enclosed bays and estuaries, so that the Listing Policy will be consistent with the requirements of the Water Quality Control Plan for Enclosed Bays and Estuaries (Part 1) - Sediment Quality Objectives, which became effective on August 25, 2009.

Background

Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and accompanying federal regulations require states to regularly identify water bodies that do not achieve applicable water quality standards after technology-based controls have been implemented. California has developed successive lists of "impaired" water bodies since 1976.

The California Water Code (CWC) was modified in 2002 to require the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to prepare guidelines for listing and delisting water bodies on the section 303(d) list (CWC section 13191.3(a)). In September, 2004, the State Water Board adopted the Listing Policy under Resolution Number 2004-0063.

The Listing Policy provides State and Regional Water Board staff with procedures for evaluating information that supports listing or delisting water bodies for the section 303(d) list.

In 2009, the State Water Board adopted the Water Quality Control Plan for Bays and Estuaries (Part 1), Sediment Quality Objectives, which included a sediment quality objectives multi-assessment tool.

Project Elements Subject to Scoping Consideration

This project is an amendment to the Listing Policy to establish consistency with the Bays and Estuaries Part 1 requirements.

The State Water Board's goal for this project is to ensure that the Listing Policy is consistent with the Sediment Quality Objectives.

Alternatives that project evaluation will include (among others):

- 1- No action
- 2- Amend the Listing Policy to ensure consistency with the Sediment Quality Objectives
- 3- Use the Sediment Quality Objectives as an evaluation guideline, instead of amending the Listing Policy for consistency.