

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-0031**

APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR
THE CENTRAL COASTAL BASIN TO ESTABLISH TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS
FOR ORGANOPHOSPHATE PESTICIDES AND TOXICITY IN THE LOWER SALINAS
RIVER WATERSHED, MONTEREY COUNTY

WHEREAS:

1. On June 21, 2024, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (Central Coast Water Board) adopted [Resolution R3-2024-0002](#) to amend the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan) to establish total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for three organophosphate pesticides, additive toxicity of those pesticides, and toxicity in the lower Salinas River watershed, Monterey County.
2. The Central Coast Water Board found the Basin Plan amendments are consistent with the Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California ([State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16](#)) and the federal Antidegradation Policy (Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, section 131.12), in that the amendment does not allow degradation of water quality, but requires attainment of water quality standards.
3. The elements of a TMDL are described in CFR, title 40, sections 130.2 and 130.7, section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance documents. A TMDL is defined as “[t]he sum of the individual [waste load allocations] for point sources and [load allocations] for nonpoint sources and natural background” (CFR, title 40, section 130.2(i)). The Central Coast Water Board determined that the TMDLs for organophosphate pesticides and toxicity in the lower Salinas River watershed are set at the levels necessary to attain and maintain the applicable narrative and numeric water quality standards, taking into account seasonal variations and any lack of knowledge concerning the relationship between effluent limitations and water quality (CFR, title 40, section 130.7(c)(1)).
4. In the “Implementation” section of the TMDL, it is clear that storm drain discharges to the single individual municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) that is assigned a WLA in the TMDL “will be implemented through National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, which requires MS4 permittees to “comply with water quality based effluent limitations (WQBELs) and associated compliance schedules that implement the [WLAs] assigned to the City...” Implementation of a WQBEL in a permit ensures that the MS4 discharges will not cause or contribute to an exceedance of the TMDL WLAs in the receiving waters. The TMDL monitoring plan for MS4s is flexible, allowing both outfall and

receiving water monitoring to ensure compliance with WQBELs and attainment of the receiving water quality objectives.

5. The Central Coast Water Board concurred with the analyses contained in the TMDL technical report, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) “Substitute Environmental Documents” for the Basin Plan amendment (including the CEQA Checklist and Analysis), the staff report, and staff responses to public comments, and found that these analyses comply with the requirements of the State Water Board’s certified regulatory CEQA process, as set forth in California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3775 et seq. Furthermore, the Central Coast Water Board found that these analyses fulfill the Central Coast Water Board’s obligations related to the adoption of regulations “requiring the installation of pollution control equipment, or a performance standard or treatment requirement,” as set forth in section 21159 of the Public Resources Code. The Central Coast Water Board’s environmental analysis accounts for a reasonable range of environmental, economic, and technical factors. Central Coast Water Board staff developed these TMDLs and the associated implementation plan using sound scientific knowledge, methods, and practices in accordance with California Health and Safety Code section 57004.
6. The State Water Board finds that the Basin Plan amendment is in conformance with Water Code section 13240, which specifies that regional water quality control boards may revise water quality control plans, and with section 13242, which requires a program of implementation to achieve water quality objectives. The State Water Board also finds that the Basin Plan amendment is consistent with the requirements of the federal Clean Water Act section 303(d).
7. The regulatory action meets the "Necessity" standard of the Administrative Procedures Act, Government Code, section 11353, subdivision (b). The necessity of developing the TMDLs is established in the TMDL technical report, the Clean Water Act section 303(d) List, and the data contained in the administrative record documenting organophosphate pesticide and toxicity water quality impairments in the lower Salinas River watershed.
8. The State Water Board finds that the Central Coast Water Board adopted the Basin Plan amendment in conformance with the outreach requirements of Water Code section 189.7 and the requirements of Water Code section 13149.2 to make specific findings in relation to that outreach. The State Water Board also finds that the TMDLs will not have disproportionate impacts on water quality in disadvantaged communities, as defined in Assembly Bill 2108, or tribal communities. No further outreach or findings are required.
9. A Basin Plan amendment does not become effective until approved by the State Water Board and until the regulatory provisions are approved by the California Office of Administrative Law. The TMDL must also receive approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Approves the Basin Plan amendment adopted under Central Coast Water Board Resolution R3-2024-0002.
2. Authorizes and directs the Executive Director or designee to submit the Basin Plan amendment adopted under Central Coast Water Board Resolution R3-2024-0002 and the administrative record for this action to the California Office of Administrative Law and the TMDL to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.
3. If, during the approval process, State Water Board staff, the Executive Officer of the Central Coast Water Board, or the Office of Administrative Law determines that minor, non-substantive modifications to the Basin Plan amendment are needed for clarity or consistency, the State Water Board Executive Director or designee may make such changes and shall inform the State Water Board of any such changes.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Clerk to the Board does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on October 7, 2025.

AYE: Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel
Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo
Board Member Sean Maguire
Board Member Laurel Firestone
Board Member Nichole Morgan

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None



Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board