

2024 Preliminary List for the Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin

June 24, 2024



CALIFORNIA

Water Boards

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS

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California Environmental Protection Agency



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Table of Contents

Introduction	5
The Triennial Review.....	6
The Preliminary List.....	6
The Public Process.....	7
The Secondary List.....	7
The Priority List.....	8
Approving the Priority List.....	8
Progress Since Last Triennial Review.....	8
Preliminary List with Proposal Descriptions.....	11
Format of Proposal Descriptions	11
Proposal Number and Title.....	11
Chapter 1. Introduction	11
Proposal 1: Editorial Corrections and Minor Clarifications (Chapter 1)	11
Chapter 2. Present and Potential Beneficial Uses	12
Proposal 2: Add and Designate Limited Water Contact Beneficial Use.....	12
Proposal 3: Designate Tribal and Subsistence Fishing Beneficial Uses.....	12
Proposal 4: Clarify and Update Agricultural Supply Beneficial Use Definition	12
Proposal 5: Designate Aquatic Life Uses for Groundwater	13
Proposal 6: De-designate Beneficial Uses for Selected Waterbodies	13
Proposal 43: Split Coastal Reaches at Saline/ Freshwater Transition Zone	14
Proposal 7: Designate Selected Waterbodies with Aquatic Life Uses	14
Proposal 8: Designate Surface Waters that Recharge Groundwater	14
Proposal 9: Clarify Uses for Waterbodies Not Specifically Named.....	15
Proposal 10: Update Groundwater Basin Boundary Map and Table	15
Proposal 11: Modify Groundwater Recharge Use Definition	15
Proposal 12: Editorial Corrections and Minor Clarifications (Chapter 2)	15
Chapter 3. Water Quality Objectives.....	16
Proposal 13: Develop Biological Water Quality Objectives	16
Proposal 14: Develop and Establish Additional Aquatic Life Water Quality Objectives	16
Proposal 15: Develop and Establish Surface Water Flow Objectives	16
Proposal 16: Establish Additive Toxicity Water Quality Objectives for Aquatic Life.	16
Proposal 17: Develop and Establish Temperature Water Quality Objectives for Aquatic Life	17
Proposal 18: Develop and Establish or Clarify Turbidity Water Quality Objectives for Aquatic Life	17
Proposal 19: Update Basin Plan to Include Toxicity Statewide Objective.....	17
Proposal 20: Revise Dissolved Oxygen Water Quality Objectives for Aquatic Life	18
Proposal 21: Revise Water Quality Objectives to be as Protective as Federal Criteria	18
Proposal 22: Update Agricultural Supply Water Quality Objectives in Table 3-1	18
Proposal 23: Revisions for Table 3-5 Water Quality Objectives for Site-specific Surface Waters	19

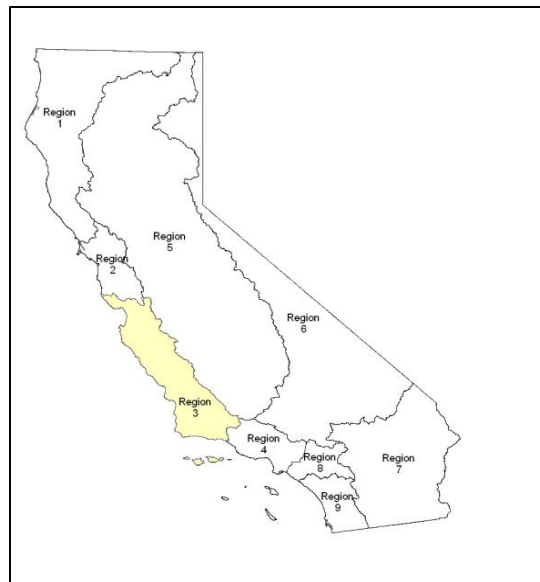
Proposal 24: Revisions for Table 3-6 Site-specific Groundwaters	19
Proposal 25: Revise Sediment Water Quality Objective.....	19
Proposal 26: Revise Pesticides Water Quality Objective	20
Proposal 44: Establish Narrative Toxicity Water Quality Objective for Groundwater	20
Proposal 27: Establish Nutrient Water Quality Objectives for Aquatic Life	20
Proposal 28: Update Reference to MCLs.....	20
Proposal 29: Editorial Corrections or Minor Clarifications (Chapter 3)	21
Chapter 4. Implementation Plan	21
Proposal 45: Establish State Water Quality Protection Areas	21
Proposal 46: Develop Protections for Riparian Corridors.....	21
Proposal 47: Develop a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for the Los Osos Groundwater Basin	21
Proposal 30: Provide 401 Exemptions for Some Restoration Activities.....	22
Proposal 31: Revise to Reflect Regulations under the Current Agricultural Order .	22
Proposal 32: Revise TMDL Attainment Dates for Agriculture	22
Proposal 33: Editorial Corrections and Minor Clarifications (Chapter 4)	22
Chapter 5. Plans and Policies.....	23
Proposal 34: Evaluate a Potential Mechanism to Require Water Recycling.....	23
Proposal 35: Broaden Applicability of Erosion and Sedimentation Control Action..	23
Proposal 36: Revise Storm Season Start Date	23
Proposal 37: Editorial Corrections and Minor Clarifications (Chapter 5)	23
Chapter 6. Monitoring and Assessment.....	24
Proposal 38: Editorial Corrections and Minor Clarifications (Chapter 6)	24
All Chapters	24
Proposal 39: Ocean Protection	24
Proposal 40: Watershed and Integrated Water Resource Protection	24
Proposal 41: Editorial Corrections and Minor Clarifications (All Chapters).....	24
Proposal 42: Align Region 2-3 Boundary with Coyote Creek Watershed	24
2024 Preliminary List of Proposals	25
Conclusion	26

Introduction

The Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan) was initially adopted by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) in 1975. The current Basin Plan (2019 edition) and recent amendments can be found on the Central Coast Water Board Basin Planning website.¹

The Basin Plan explains how the quality of surface waters and groundwater in the Central Coastal Basin should be managed to provide the highest water quality reasonably possible. The Basin Plan defines and designates beneficial uses to waters of the state (both surface water and groundwater), establishes narrative or numeric water quality objectives to protect beneficial uses, and contains provisions to protect high quality waters from degradation (i.e., antidegradation), collectively referred to as water quality standards. The Basin Plan also includes programs of implementation for achieving water quality objectives and outlines corrective measures to be implemented when developing discharge limitations. Figure 1 shows the geographic boundary of the Central Coast Region.

Figure 1. Central Coast Water Board (Region 3) Boundary



The Basin Plan fulfills statutory requirements for water quality planning in the California Water Code (section 13240) and in the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) (section 303[c]). The CWA further stipulates that a state's water quality standards be reviewed every three years; the last Triennial Review of the Basin Plan was completed in December 2021. Consequently, the Central Coast Water Board is conducting the 2024 Triennial Review of the Basin Plan.

¹ Central Coast Water Board, Basin Planning website:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/

The Triennial Review

The purpose of the Triennial Review is to 1) identify potential improvements to the Basin Plan, 2) prioritize the improvements that may be made, and 3) affirm those portions of the Basin Plan where no improvements are necessary. An improvement to the Basin Plan is defined as any change that brings the Basin Plan more up-to-date or increases the Basin Plan's effectiveness as a regulatory instrument to protect water quality. Because these potential improvements must be implemented through Basin Plan amendments, they are referred to as "proposed amendments," or simply "proposals."

The Triennial Review satisfies two statutory requirements. The CWA (section 303[c][1]) requires states to hold public hearings for the review of water quality standards at least once every three years. In addition, the California Water Code (section 13240) requires the regional water boards to periodically review and possibly revise their Basin Plan.

The Triennial Review comprises five steps:

1. Compiling a preliminary list of proposals;²
2. Conducting a public process to receive and respond to comments on the proposals on the preliminary list;
3. Refining the preliminary list into a secondary list;³
4. Identifying a priority list of proposals from the secondary list to develop Basin Plan amendments during the next three years; and
5. Approving the priority list of proposals.

The Preliminary List

The preliminary list records and describes all proposed amendments that will be considered during the Triennial Review process. The sources of the proposed amendments are from previous Triennial Review lists and from input from Water Board staff and other interested persons since the 2021 Triennial Review. To the extent possible, staff structure the list of proposals so that each proposal can be completely addressed by a single Basin Plan amendment however, all proposals are included, and many are included as originally proposed, without judgement on accuracy, feasibility, or merit, and without being modified or fully vetted by staff. Additional amendments proposed by commenters during the 2024 public comment period can be added to the preliminary list.

² The preliminary list includes all the proposals included in the 2021 Triennial Review and new proposals suggested by staff and interested persons since the 2021 Triennial Review.

³ The secondary list includes a refined list of proposals for consideration for future Triennial Reviews that staff have identified as 1) improving the Basin Plan's effectiveness as a regulatory instrument to protect water quality and 2) align with one or more of the Central Coast Water Board's priorities and the priorities for the Basin Planning Program.

The Public Process

Public participation is an important part of the Triennial Review, which comprises a public workshop, a public comment period, and a public hearing. The schedule for the public participation components of the 2024 Triennial Review are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Schedule for the 2024 Triennial Review.

Event	Date
Public comment period start	June 24, 2024
Public workshop	July 31, 2024
Public comment period end	August 9, 2024
Public hearing and Board Meeting	October 17, 2024

The Central Coast Water Board distributes correspondence related to the Triennial Review via an email subscription list⁴ established for the Triennial Review of the Basin Plan.

The Secondary List

After the public comment period, staff evaluates proposals on the preliminary list for placement on the secondary and priority lists. The purpose of the secondary list is to preserve all proposals that would improve the Basin Plan. Proposals that satisfy the following criteria are placed on the secondary list:

- Does the proposed Basin Plan amendment increase the Basin Plan’s effectiveness as a regulatory instrument to protect water quality?
- Does the proposed Basin Plan amendment align with one or more of the Central Coast Water Board’s priorities and the priorities for the Basin Planning Program?

To determine alignment with the Central Coast Water Board’s priorities and the priorities for the Basin Planning Program, staff consider the following criteria:

- Does the proposal provide improvements to relevant water quality standards?
- Does the proposal improve regulatory and program efficiency and/or effectiveness?
- Does the proposal affirm the realization of the human right to water and the protection of human health?
- Does the proposal implement activities that ensures the equitable treatment of Underrepresented Communities?
- Does the proposal further goals to mitigate for and adapt to the impacts of climate change?

⁴ To sign up for these announcements, select “Basin Planning Triennial Review” on the Central Coast Water Board’s Email Subscription List webpage:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CAWRCB/subscriber/new?qsp=central_coast

- Does the proposal align with the Central Coast Water Board’s Vision for Healthy Watersheds?⁵

The Priority List

Developing every proposal on the secondary list into a Basin Plan amendment in the next three years is not feasible given available staff resources. Therefore, a limited subset of the proposals on the secondary list will be prioritized for development but not necessarily completion, in the next three years. Proposals selected for placement on the priority list meet one or more of the following criteria: 1) Central Coast Water Board program staff identify the proposal as a high priority to improve program efficiency and/or effectiveness and identify technical staff resources to work on the proposal, and/or 2) executive management identify staff resources to further develop a scope of work and/or 3) the Central Coast Water Board identifies a proposal as high priority.

Approving the Priority List

The Basin Plan Triennial Review process is complete once the Central Coast Water Board approves the priority list of proposals. While the purpose of the Triennial Review is to identify future changes to the Basin Plan, it does not itself result in any changes to the Basin Plan.

Progress Since Last Triennial Review

The previous Triennial Review of the Basin Plan resulted in eight priority proposals for staff to develop into possible Basin Plan amendments. Staff addressed a subset of the 2021 Triennial Review prioritized list between 2021 and 2024. The Basin Planning Program had two vacancies and new hires during this time but made progress on several Basin Plan amendments. Table 2 presents 2021 Triennial Review proposal descriptions and progress made by staff to develop the proposals between 2021 and 2024. In summary, progress was made on the following five priority proposals:

- 2021 Triennial Review Proposal 18: *Develop and Establish or Clarify Turbidity Water Quality Objectives for Aquatic Life* – Proposal development in progress. Staff developed a methodology to establish site specific water quality objectives for turbidity that were successfully peer reviewed and used in the Gabilan Creek Watershed Turbidity TMDL (Resolution R3-2022-0002⁶). This methodology is one component of the proposal, the next steps require additional technical staff resources to proceed with finalizing proposed amendment language, facilitating public review and comment, and bringing a proposed amendment to the Water Board for adoption.

⁵ Central Coast Water Board’s Vision webpage:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/publications_forms/publications/vision/index.shtml

⁶ Resolution R3-2022-0002:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2022/Resolution-No-R3-2022-0002.pdf

- 2021 Triennial Review Proposal 19 and Proposal 3: *Update Basin Plan to Include all Statewide Objectives and add Tribal Beneficial Use and Subsistence Fishing beneficial use definitions, respectively.* A proposed Basin Plan amendment project is pending adoption via a public hearing at the regular Central Coast Water Board meeting scheduled for June 20-21, 2024. Although Proposal 3 was not one of the priority proposals, it was included due to its alignment with the Central Coast Water Board’s prioritization of equity for underrepresented communities. The Basin Plan amendments also address some of the proposed editorial changes from Proposals 37 and 41.
- 2021 Triennial Review Proposal 28: *Update Reference to MCLs.* Proposal development in progress. Staff initiated the project and drafted language for Basin Plan amendments to add MCLs for drinking water from the California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 22, sections 64533 and 64533.5 as numeric water quality objectives for disinfection byproducts and residual disinfectants. The project requires additional technical staff resources to proceed with finalizing the proposed amendments language, facilitating public review and comment, and bringing a proposed amendment to the Central Coast Water Board for adoption.
- 2021 Triennial Review Proposal 45: *Establish State Water Quality Protection Areas (SWQPAs).* Proposal development in progress. Staff initiated coordination with the State Water Board staff in the Ocean Planning Unit regarding interpretation of the Ocean Plan process for evaluating the justification of a SWQPA nomination. Staff responded to the California Coastkeeper’s Alliance (CCKA) nomination for the Point Sur Marine Protected Area and other Marine Protected Areas with anticipated next steps and estimated timelines. Staff also initiated coordination with the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) regarding additional technical staff resources. The project requires additional technical staff resources to proceed with evaluating the proposal for adequate justification to support the nomination, facilitating public review and comment, and to bringing recommendation to the Central Coast Water Board to support or not-support the nomination. In this case, the State Water Board would approve an amendment to the California Ocean Plan before the Central Coast Water Board would amend its Basin Plan.

Table 2. The 2021 Triennial Review prioritized proposals and progress made during the period 2021 to 2024.

Priority Proposal	Description	Progress
Proposal 9: Clarify Uses for Waterbodies Not Specifically Named	Improve the clarity for specific beneficial uses designated for unnamed surface waters and groundwater in Chapter 2.	Not developed due to resources constraints.
Proposal 18: Develop and Establish or Clarify	Develop numeric water quality objectives or define	Moderate progress. Staff developed and obtained

Turbidity Water Quality Objectives for Aquatic Life	specific natural levels to protect aquatic life beneficial uses.	scientific peer review for a methodology to determine site specific water quality objectives for turbidity. The next step is to incorporate methodology into a proposed Basin Plan amendment.
Proposal 19: Update Basin Plan to Include all Statewide Objectives	Include statewide Plans and Policies, and water quality objectives, as applicable.	Substantial progress. Proposed Basin Plan amendments are pending a public hearing.
Proposal 24: Revisions for Table 3-6 Site-specific Groundwaters	Update Table 3-6 groundwater boundaries and/or names to correspond with the boundaries defined by the current DWR Bulletin 118.	Not developed due to staff resource constraints.
Proposal 28: Update Reference to MCLs	Add Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) from California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 22 section 64533 to the Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) section 3.3.4.2.	Moderate Progress. Not completed due to staff resource constraints.
Proposal 35: Broaden Applicability Erosion and Sedimentation Control Action	Clarify that section 5.5.6 item 4 is applicable to more than construction activities; clarify its applicability to all waters of the state and specify that riparian vegetation should be native and/or non-native non-invasive.	Not developed due to staff resource constraints.
Proposal 45: Establish State Water Quality Protection Areas (SWQPAs)	Establish a State Water Quality Protection Area for the Point Sur Marine Protected Area and other Marine Protected Areas.	Minimal Progress. Not further developed due to staff resource constraints and limited clarity in the Ocean Plan for the process to evaluate the justification of a nominated SWQPA.
Proposal 46: Develop Protections for Riparian Corridors	Develop protections for riparian corridors.	Not developed due to staff resource constraints.

For additional information about the 2021 Triennial Review please see the Central Coast Water Board Triennial Review webpage.⁷

Preliminary List with Proposal Descriptions

Format of Proposal Descriptions

Proposals are ordered according to the chapter of the Basin Plan that they address. Each proposal in this document is presented using the following format:

Proposal Number and Title

A name and number for each proposal that will be considered for prioritization. Proposals are generally ordered by what section they refer to in the Basin Plan.

Discussion

A brief description of the proposal.

Type of Action

A description of the type of Basin Plan amendment action necessary to address or resolve the proposal. Possible types of action include:

- Beneficial use amendment (new or revised)
- Water quality objective amendment (new or revised)
- Implementation amendment (new or revised)
- New or revised policy
- Water quality surveillance and monitoring amendment
- Editorial corrections or minor clarifications
- Other

Chapter 1. Introduction

Proposal 1: Editorial Corrections and Minor Clarifications (Chapter 1)

Discussion

Correct typos, update information, and revise to adhere to current Central Coast Water Board writing style.

Type of Action

Editorial corrections or minor clarifications of the Basin Plan

⁷ Central Coast Water Board Triennial Review webpage:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/tri-review.html

Chapter 2. Present and Potential Beneficial Uses

Proposal 2: Add and Designate Limited Water Contact Beneficial Use

Discussion

On August 7, 2018, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted Resolution 2018-0038 and *Part 3 of the Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California – Bacteria Provisions and a Water Quality Standards Variance Policy*⁸ that contains a definition for a Limited Water Contact Recreation (LREC-1) beneficial use. Adopt the LREC-1 beneficial use and designate waterbodies with this use as appropriate.

Type of Action

Beneficial use amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 3: Designate Tribal and Subsistence Fishing Beneficial Uses

Discussion

On May 2, 2017, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted Resolution 2017-0027 and *Part 2 of the Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California – Tribal Subsistence Beneficial Uses and Mercury Provisions*.⁹

Designate waterbodies with the Tribal Subsistence Fishing Beneficial Uses, as appropriate, following research and public input to identify “historical, present, and potential beneficial uses in the [central coast] Basin”. Basin Plan Chapter 2, Introduction.

Type of Action

Beneficial use amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 4: Clarify and Update Agricultural Supply Beneficial Use Definition

Discussion

Include the terms irrigated agriculture and cannabis cultivation in the Agricultural Supply (AGR) beneficial use definition.

Type of Action

Beneficial use amendment (new or revised)

⁸ *Bacteria provisions and a Water Quality Standards Variance Policy*:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans_policies/docs/bacteria.pdf

⁹ *Tribal Subsistence Beneficial Uses and Mercury Provisions*:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans_policies/docs/2023/mercury-tribe.pdf

Proposal 5: Designate Aquatic Life Uses for Groundwater

Discussion

Groundwater basins are traditionally designated with the beneficial uses: Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN), Agricultural Supply (AGR), and Industrial Supply (IND). However, several surface waterbodies in the Central Coast Region are reliant on groundwater to replenish and sustain baseflows. In some cases, water quality objectives established to support MUN, AGR, IND are inadequate to support aquatic habitat, wildlife, and terrestrial ecosystems.

Conduct a Use Attainability Analysis (UAA), or comparable analysis, and evaluate the merit of this proposed amendment to designate selected groundwater basins with aquatic habitat / ecosystem support beneficial uses.

Type of Action

Beneficial use amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 6: De-designate Beneficial Uses for Selected Waterbodies

Discussion

Several commenters on previous Triennial Reviews requested removal of specific beneficial use designations from certain waterbodies. Supporting evidence to remove these beneficial uses has not yet been collected or provided. Develop a UAA and evaluate the merit of the proposed amendments to de-designate beneficial uses for specific waterbodies in accordance with 40 CFR 131.10(g) and 40 CFR 131.3(m).

Proposals are summarized in the table below:

Hydrologic Unit	Waterbody Name	Use Recommend for Removal
304	Loch Lomond Reservoir	SHELL
312	Santa Maria River	MUN, REC1, REC2
312	All Santa Maria flood control channels	MUN, REC1, REC2, COLD, WARM
314	Santa Ynez River (downstream of Cachuma Res.)	MUN, AGR, PROC
314	Graves Wetland (Bailey Wetland)	REC-1, REC-2, COMM, SPWN
315	Sycamore Creek	AGR
315	Glen Annie Canyon	AGR
315	Atascadero Creek (SB Co.)	AGR
315	Maria Ygnacio Creek	AGR
315	San Jose Creek (SB Co.)	AGR
315	San Pedro Creek	AGR
315	Franklin Creek	AGR
315	Carpinteria Creek	AGR

Type of Action

Beneficial use amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 43: Split Coastal Reaches at Saline/ Freshwater Transition Zone

Discussion

Refinement of the estuarine habitat beneficial use (EST) for Mission and Sycamore Creeks. The EST beneficial use is currently designated to the entire length of both creeks, however, a large volume of salinity data from these waterbodies shows that the use is only realized in the lower reaches, near tidal influence. The EST designation results in several CWA section 303(d) List impairments for metals in the upper watershed. Conduct a UAA and amend Basin Plan accordingly.

Type of Action

Beneficial use amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 7: Designate Selected Waterbodies with Aquatic Life Uses

Discussion

Designate Moore Creek, Wilder Creek, Green Oaks Creek, Bates Creek, Berry Creek, and Toro Creek in Table 2-1 with the RARE beneficial use. Conduct a UAA that includes a systematic review of all waterbodies in the region and amend to designate Table 2-1 waterbodies appropriately.

Designate Santa Maria River Estuary in Table 2-1 with the COLD beneficial use based on the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration's report titled, "Steelhead/Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) Resources South of the Golden Gate, California."¹⁰

Type of Action

Beneficial use amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 8: Designate Surface Waters that Recharge Groundwater

Discussion

Designate all surface waters that percolate to groundwater in Table 2-1 with the Groundwater Recharge (GWR) beneficial use. All waterbodies that overlay groundwater basins in Figure 2-2 could include the GWR beneficial use. Notable exceptions would be waterbodies that are impermeable for their entire reach, such as concrete-lined conveyances. Lists and maps of clearly defined GWR areas could be included.

¹⁰ "Steelhead/Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) Resources South of the Golden Gate, California": http://www.cemar.org/SSRP/pdfs/SSRP_textOnly.pdf

Type of Action

Beneficial use amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 9: Clarify Uses for Waterbodies Not Specifically Named

Discussion

Improve the clarity of specific beneficial uses designated for unnamed surface waters and groundwaters in section 2.1. The beneficial uses that apply to unnamed waterbodies should be specified.

Type of Action

Beneficial use amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 10: Update Groundwater Basin Boundary Map and Table

Discussion

Replace the groundwater basin map (Figure 2-2) and table (Table 2-4) to be consistent with the 2018 (or most current) edition of Bulletin 118¹¹ and include language stating that the Water Board relies on DWR delineations of groundwater basins and the current version of DWR's Bulletin 118 map. This proposal overlaps with Proposal 24 and would require evaluation of the water quality objectives where basin boundaries would change.

Type of Action

Beneficial use amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 11: Modify Groundwater Recharge Use Definition

Discussion

Add "maintenance of supply" to the Groundwater Recharge (GWR) beneficial use definition (section 2.2.5) to include maintenance of instream flows, riparian habitat, and wetland habitat. This beneficial use could also be revised as it relates to SGMA and climate change adaptation water supply augmentation and resiliency projects with a groundwater recharge component.

Type of Action

Beneficial use amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 12: Editorial Corrections and Minor Clarifications (Chapter 2)

Discussion

Correct typos and revise to adhere to current Central Coast Water Board writing style.

¹¹ Bulletin 118: <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Bulletin-118>

Type of Action

Editorial corrections or minor clarifications of the Basin Plan

Chapter 3. Water Quality Objectives

Proposal 13: Develop Biological Water Quality Objectives

Discussion

Establish water quality objectives for biological integrity. Additionally, establish numeric water quality objectives for biological integrity that apply to surface waters designated as cold and/or warm freshwater habitats (COLD and WARM beneficial uses) (i.e., the Southern California Index of Biotic Integrity or the California Stream Condition Index). The San Diego Region's Basin Plan provides an example of this.

Type of Action

Water quality objective amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 14: Develop and Establish Additional Aquatic Life Water Quality Objectives

Discussion

Develop and establish numeric water quality objectives for the protection of aquatic life beneficial uses for specific cyanotoxins, current use pesticides, and other compounds that impact aquatic life.

Type of Action

Water quality objective amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 15: Develop and Establish Surface Water Flow Objectives

Discussion

Develop and establish narrative and/or numeric water quality objectives that are protective of the minimum flows necessary to maintain and protect fish passage and habitat connectivity.

Type of Action

Water quality objective amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 16: Establish Additive Toxicity Water Quality Objectives for Aquatic Life

Discussion

Establish numeric water quality objectives for the additive toxicity of specific classes of pesticides to protect aquatic life beneficial uses (as developed in several TMDL

projects) or to adopt a narrative objective to protect aquatic life from additive toxicity, like the narrative objectives in the Central Valley Basin Plan (see section 4.5.5).¹²

Type of Action

Water quality objective amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 17: Develop and Establish Temperature Water Quality Objectives for Aquatic Life

Discussion

Adopt numerical water quality objectives for temperature instead of, or in addition to, the Basin Plan narrative water quality objective to protect aquatic life beneficial uses. Design the temperature objectives to account for ambient conditions, including daily and seasonal fluctuations, for the protection of COLD and WARM beneficial uses.

Type of Action

Water quality objective amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 18: Develop and Establish or Clarify Turbidity Water Quality Objectives for Aquatic Life

Discussion

Develop and establish numeric turbidity objectives and/or revise existing objectives by defining numeric definitions of “natural” turbidity levels for aquatic life beneficial uses including Cold Freshwater Habitats (COLD), Warm Freshwater Habitats (WARM), Spawning, Reproduction, and/or Early Development (SPWN), and Migration of Aquatic Organisms (MIGR).

Type of Action

Water quality objective amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 19: Update Basin Plan to Include Toxicity Statewide Objective

Discussion

On October 5, 2021, the State Water Board adopted Resolution 2021-0044,¹³ which supersedes portions of the general toxicity objectives in the Basin plan, section 3.3.2.1. The Resolution adopts the *Toxicity Provisions of the Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California*.¹⁴ The Provisions

¹²Central Valley Basin Plan: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/

¹³ State Water Board Resolution 2021-0044: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2021/rs2021-0044.pdf

¹⁴ *Toxicity Provisions*: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/state_implementation_policy/docs/2021/2021-state-policy-toxicity-provisions.pdf

were approved by the California Office of Administrative Law on April 25, 2022, and subsequently by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on May 1, 2023.

Incorporate Toxicity Provisions into the Basin Plan.

Type of Action

Water quality objective amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 20: Revise Dissolved Oxygen Water Quality Objectives for Aquatic Life

Discussion

Develop and adopt dissolved oxygen water quality objectives to account for daily and seasonal fluctuations. Revise or remove the dissolved oxygen saturation water quality objective for all inland surface waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries from section 3.3.2.1, General Objectives. If revised, align with the appropriate specific beneficial use(s) only.

Type of Action

Water quality objective amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 21: Revise Water Quality Objectives to be as Protective as Federal Criteria

Discussion

Incorporate CWA section 304(a) criteria. Federal regulations 40 CFR 131.20(a) require states to review their water quality standards in comparison to CWA section 304(a) criteria as new information becomes available. Water quality objectives in the Basin Plan or in effect under the California Toxics Rule that are not as protective as the USEPA nationally recommended criteria need to be updated.

Type of Action

Water quality objective amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 22: Update Agricultural Supply Water Quality Objectives in Table 3-1

Discussion

Amend to update water quality objectives to protect the Agricultural Supply (AGR) beneficial use in Table 3.1 using the United Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations document titled “Water quality for agriculture,”¹⁵ and/or the University of California Cooperative Extension manual titled “Agricultural Salinity and Drainage.”¹⁶

¹⁵ “Water quality for agriculture”: <https://www.fao.org/3/T0234E/T0234E00.htm>

¹⁶ “Agricultural Salinity and Drainage”: <https://www.lawr.ucdavis.edu/cooperative-extension/irrigation/manuals/agricultural-salinity-and-drainage>

Type of Action

Water quality objective amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 23: Revisions for Table 3-5 Water Quality Objectives for Site-specific Surface Waters

Discussion

Associate the site-specific surface water quality objectives for salts (chloride, sulfate, boron, sodium, nitrate, and total dissolved solids) in Table 3-5 with the specific beneficial uses appropriate for the thresholds. Revise Table 3-5 to align with Table 2-1 names where possible or clearly differentiate them. Clearly state that objectives apply to specific beneficial uses, such as Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) or aquatic life (e.g., COLD and WARM). Clarify that the site-specific objectives should be evaluated as annual medians instead of annual mean values. Develop and add site-specific numeric water quality objectives for other constituents such as pH, phosphorous, nickel, chromium, and other specific salts. Develop site-specific water quality objectives for turbidity and pathogen indicators extending 5-miles upstream of Santa Cruz City's San Lorenzo River surface water diversion at Crossing Street to protect the primary drinking water sources for the city. Align section 3.3.3 with the above changes.

Type of Action

Water quality objective amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 24: Revisions for Table 3-6 Site-specific Groundwaters

Discussion

Basin Plan groundwater boundaries and/or names do not correspond with the boundaries defined by the current State Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 118. Some Basin Plan groundwater basin boundaries are in Appendices A-32 through A-35 and the maps need to be replaced with current maps. Update Table 3-6 groundwater boundaries and/or names to correspond with the boundaries defined by the current DWR Bulletin 118. This proposal overlaps with Proposal 10.

Type of Action

Water quality objective amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 25: Revise Sediment Water Quality Objective

Discussion

Rephrase the current sediment water quality objective in section 3.3.2.1 to be consistent with other objectives.

Type of Action

Water quality objective amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 26: Revise Pesticides Water Quality Objective

Discussion

Remove “chlorinated hydrocarbon” from the second paragraph of the narrative pesticide water quality objective in section 3.3.2.1 so that all legacy and currently applied pesticides are included.

Type of Action

Water quality objective amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 44: Establish Narrative Toxicity Water Quality Objective for Groundwater

Discussion

Develop and establish a narrative objective for toxicity specific to groundwater. Use the following from the Basin Plan for the Sacramento River Basin and the San Joaquin River Basin as an example:

Ground waters shall be maintained free of toxic substances in concentrations that produce detrimental physiological responses in human, plant, animal, or aquatic life associated with designated beneficial use(s). This objective applies regardless of whether the toxicity is caused by a single substance or the interactive effect of multiple substances.

Type of Action

Water quality objective amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 27: Establish Nutrient Water Quality Objectives for Aquatic Life

Discussion

Develop and/or establish numeric water quality objectives or numeric interpreters for narrative water quality objectives for biostimulatory substances to protect aquatic life. Central Coast Water Board staff is participating in the statewide advisory group working on development of numeric nutrient objectives protective of biostimulatory responses.

Type of Action

Water quality objective amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 28: Update Reference to MCLs

Discussion

Add Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) from California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 22 section 64533 to the Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) section 3.3.4.2 for all disinfection byproducts (such as haloacetic acids, trihalomethanes (THMs)), 1,2,3,-trichloropropane (1,2,3,-TCP), and other appropriate drinking water levels for

contaminants of emerging concern (such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances).

Type of Action

Water quality objective amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 29: Editorial Corrections or Minor Clarifications (Chapter 3)

Discussion

Correct typos and revise to adhere to current Central Coast Water Board writing style. Discuss the California Toxics Rule, and correct point source and nonpoint source examples to align with the Clean Water Act and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program respectively. Define jurisdictional authority in Monterey Bay in the first paragraph. Clarify compliance with Title 22 criteria.

Type of Action

Editorial corrections or minor clarifications of the Basin Plan

Chapter 4. Implementation Plan

Proposal 45: Establish State Water Quality Protection Areas

Discussion

Establish additional State Water Quality Protection Areas (SWQPA). A proposal to establish a SWQPA for the Point Sur Area was submitted following the 2021 Triennial Review period. Review proposal for adequate justification in support of the nomination and if so, bring a recommendation to the Central Coast Water Board.

Type of Action

Implementation amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 46: Develop Protections for Riparian Corridors

Discussion

Build upon statewide and regional riparian and wetland policies and develop protections for riparian corridors.

Type of Action

New or revised policy

Proposal 47: Develop a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for the Los Osos Groundwater Basin

Discussion

Develop and implement Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for the Los Osos Groundwater Basin that prevents further degradation.

Type of Action

Implementation amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 30: Provide 401 Exemptions for Some Restoration Activities

Discussion

This proposal has been addressed and no longer requires a Basin Plan amendment (see State Water Board Order Number WQ 2022-0048-DWQ¹⁷).

Proposal 31: Revise to Reflect Regulations under the Current Agricultural Order

Discussion

Remove or revise outdated implementation language contrary to the regulatory requirements established in the 2021 General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands (Order Number R3-2021-0040)¹⁸ or current Order regulating the discharge of waste from irrigated agriculture. Some of this has been completed as part of the amendments to revise the land disturbance prohibitions in Section 4.8.5.1 of the Basin Plan.

Type of Action

Implementation amendment (new or revised)

Proposal 32: Revise TMDL Attainment Dates for Agriculture

Discussion

This proposal has been addressed and no longer requires a Basin Plan amendment.

Proposal 33: Editorial Corrections and Minor Clarifications (Chapter 4)

Discussion

Correct typos, update State and Central Coast Water Board program information, and revise to adhere to current Central Coast Water Board writing style.

Type of Action

Editorial corrections or minor clarifications of the Basin Plan

¹⁷ State Water Board Order Number WQ 2022-0048-DWQ:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2022/wqo2022-0048-dwq.pdf

¹⁸ Order Number R3-2021-0040 Requirements website:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ilp/regulatory_information.html

Chapter 5. Plans and Policies

Proposal 34: Evaluate a Potential Mechanism to Require Water Recycling

Discussion

Evaluate a potential mechanism to require that treated wastewaters (that can viably be treated to a level safe for reuse and have a viable beneficial reuse option) be put to the highest practicable beneficial reuse.

Type of Action

New or revised policy

Proposal 35: Broaden Applicability of Erosion and Sedimentation Control Action

Discussion

Clarify that section 5.5.6 item 4 is applicable to more than construction activities; clarify its applicability to all waters of the state and specify that riparian vegetation should be native and/or non-native non-invasive. Consider and develop justification to increase the minimum filter strip width and define the specific circumstances where this is appropriate.

Type of Action

New or revised policy

Proposal 36: Revise Storm Season Start Date

Discussion

Change section 5.5.6 item 2 from November 15 to an earlier date to include first flush storm events that typically occur before November 15. In section 5.5.6 item 7 clarify that “construction season” refers to the dry season. Develop a scientifically justifiable definition of the dry season.

Type of Action

New or revised policy

Proposal 37: Editorial Corrections and Minor Clarifications (Chapter 5)

Discussion

Correct typos, update information, and revise to adhere to current Central Coast Water Board writing style.

Type of Action

Editorial corrections or minor clarifications of the Basin Plan

Chapter 6. Monitoring and Assessment

Proposal 38: Editorial Corrections and Minor Clarifications (Chapter 6)

Discussion

Correct typos, update information, and revise to adhere to current Central Coast Water Board writing style.

Type of Action

Editorial corrections or minor clarifications of the Basin Plan

All Chapters

Proposal 39: Ocean Protection

Discussion

This proposal has been removed; it was replaced with specific proposal(s) during the 2021 Triennial Review that will accomplish the intended goal.

Proposal 40: Watershed and Integrated Water Resource Protection

Discussion

This proposal has been removed; it was replaced with specific proposal(s) during the 2021 Triennial Review that will accomplish the intended goal.

Proposal 41: Editorial Corrections and Minor Clarifications (All Chapters)

Discussion

Correct typos and revise to adhere to current Central Coast Water Board writing style. Add Nipomo prohibition area map to Appendix A-27 per R3-1978-0002.

Type of Action

Editorial corrections or minor clarifications of the Basin Plan

Proposal 42: Align Region 2-3 Boundary with Coyote Creek Watershed

Discussion

There is a gap of approximately one-half mile between the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 2) boundary and the Coyote Creek watershed boundary where they cross Highway 101 in Santa Clara County. Projects in this gap are located in Region 3 yet drain to Region 2, resulting in jurisdictional ambiguity. In coordination with Region 2, align the Region 2-3 boundary with the Coyote Creek Watershed boundary.

Type of Action

Other

2024 Preliminary List of Proposals

Proposals are numbered according to the chapter of the Basin Plan that they address and the order in which they are created. Numbering is preserved between Triennial Reviews:

Table 3. The 2024 Preliminary List of Proposals for the Triennial Review

Number	Chapter	Name
1	1	Editorial Corrections and Minor Clarifications (Chapter 1)
2	2	Add and Designate Limited Water Contact Beneficial Use
3	2	Designate Tribal and Subsistence Fishing Beneficial Uses
4	2	Clarify and Update Agricultural Supply Beneficial Use Definition
5	2	Designate Aquatic Life Uses for Groundwater
6	2	De-designate Beneficial Uses for Selected Waterbodies
43	2	Split Coastal Reaches at Saline/ Freshwater Transition Zone
7	2	Designate Selected Waterbodies with Aquatic Life Uses
8	2	Designate Surface Waters that Recharge Groundwater
9	2	Clarify Uses for Waterbodies Not Specifically Named
10	2	Update Groundwater Basin Boundary Map and Table
11	2	Modify Groundwater Recharge Use Definition
12	2	Editorial Corrections and Minor Clarifications (Chapter 2)
13	3	Develop Biological Water Quality Objectives
14	3	Develop and Establish Additional Aquatic Life Water Quality Objectives
15	3	Develop and Establish Surface Water Flow Objectives
16	3	Establish Additive Toxicity Water Quality Objectives for Aquatic Life
17	3	Develop and Establish Temperature Water Quality Objectives for Aquatic Life
18	3	Develop and Establish or Clarify Turbidity Water Quality Objectives for Aquatic Life
19	3	Update Basin Plan to Include Toxicity Statewide Objective
20	3	Revise Dissolved Oxygen Water Quality Objectives for Aquatic Life
21	3	Revise Water Quality Objectives to be as Protective as Federal Criteria
22	3	Update Agricultural Supply Water Quality Objectives in Table 3-1
23	3	Revisions for Table 3-5 Water Quality Objectives for Site-specific Surface Waters

24	3	Revisions for Table 3-6 Site-specific Groundwaters
25	3	Revise Sediment Water Quality Objective
26	3	Revise Pesticide Water Quality Objective
44	3	Establish Narrative Toxicity Water Quality Objective for Groundwater
27	3	Establish Nutrient Water Quality Objectives for Aquatic Life
28	3	Update Reference to MCLs
29	3	Editorial Corrections or Minor Clarifications (Chapter 3)
45	4	Establish State Water Quality Protection Areas
46	4	Develop Protections for Riparian Corridors
47	4	Develop a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for the Los Osos Groundwater Basin
31	4	Revise to Reflect Regulations under the Current Agricultural Order
33	4	Editorial Corrections and Minor Clarifications (Chapter 4)
34	5	Evaluate a Potential Mechanism to Require Water Recycling
35	5	Broaden Applicability Erosion and Sedimentation Control Action
36	5	Revise Storm Season Start Date
37	5	Editorial Corrections and Minor Clarifications (Chapter 5)
38	6	Editorial Corrections and Minor Clarifications (Chapter 6)
41	All	Editorial Corrections and Minor Clarifications (All Chapters)
42	All	Align Region 2-3 Boundary with Coyote Creek watershed

Conclusion

The preliminary list records and describes all the proposed amendments that will be considered for prioritization during the Triennial Review process. After the public comments period, staff evaluate proposals on the preliminary list for placement on the secondary and priority lists. The 2024 Triennial Review is concluded when the Central Coast Water Board adopts a resolution that approves a priority list of proposals to be pursued as future Basin Plan amendments in the next three years and affirms the general adequacy of those portions of the Basin Plan not considered for revision. Development and implementation of the proposals is intended to improve program efficiencies and further protect and restore water quality.