

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL  
BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION  
2007 TRIENNIAL REVIEW  
FINAL WORKPLAN**

**Prepared By  
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# INTRODUCTION

Section 303(c) of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. § 1313(c)) and Section 130 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) require states to hold public hearings to review applicable water quality standards (WQS), and modify and adopt standards as necessary. Water quality standards include beneficial uses and water quality objectives (WQOs). Section 13240 of the California Water Code (CWC) requires the State of California (State) to formulate and periodically update Regional Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans). The Basin Plan is a master-planning document for ground and surface waters in the Region. The Basin Plan has five major components:

1. Identifies the waters of the Region;
2. Designates beneficial uses of those waters;
3. Establishes WQOs for the protection of those uses;
4. Prescribes an implementation plan; and
5. Establishes a monitoring and surveillance program to assess implementation efforts.

Pursuant to State and Federal regulations, the Regional Board holds public hearings to evaluate WQS and their need for revision at least every three years, hence the term "Triennial Review." The purpose of the Triennial Review is twofold: to identify potential water quality problems/issues, and to reaffirm parts of the Basin Plan where no potential problems are identified. Reviewing Basin Plan and WQS adequacy involves several procedural requirements that are summarized below:

- Prepare a preliminary list of potential water quality concerns (i.e., Triennial Review List);
- Notice a public hearing to review WQS (CWC 13244), adopt the Draft Triennial Review List, and reaffirm parts of the Basin Plan not included in the list as adequate;
- Conduct workshops if necessary, and a Public Hearing;
- Respond to comments identified during the public comment period, and the hearing;
- Finalize the list of potential water quality issues;
- Prepare a workplan to address those issues, including the need for Basin Plan amendments, and resources needed to complete the amendments;
- Adopt a Board Resolution that specifies the findings and intent of the Triennial Review, reaffirms parts of the Basin Plan not included in the Triennial Review List, specifies that the Basin Plan remains in effect in its entirety until amendments are adopted, and concludes the 2007 Triennial Review process; and
- Forward the Board Resolution and Administrative Record to the State Water Resources Control Board for its review and approval.

The review does not necessarily mean that the Basin Plan will be revised. While a major part of the review consists of identifying potential water quality issues, an important part is the reaffirmation of those portions of the Basin Plan where no potential problems are identified.

Regional Board staff notified interested persons and potentially affected parties of the intent to conduct a Triennial Review in a Public Notice, dated August 1, 2007. The Public Notice included a draft list of potential water quality issues for investigation and review.

Regional Board staff revised the Draft 2007 Triennial Review List based on public comments received during the public comment period. In a Public Notice, dated January 18, 2008, staff notified interested persons and potentially affected parties of these revisions. The Public Notice also stated the Regional Board's intent to: (a) conduct a public hearing on March 19, 2008 to review the findings of the 2007 Triennial Review List, (b) adopt the Triennial Review List and Workplan, and (c) conclude the 2007 Triennial Review process.

## **2007 TRIENNIAL REVIEW LIST**

The Triennial Review List contains the following issues:

### **Beneficial Use Designation of Surface Waters:**

Conduct region-wide surface water survey to evaluate beneficial uses and water quality standards. Identify standards that require revision, and reaffirm standards that require no revision. Revise the Basin Plan as necessary. This process is part of the reaffirmation requirements for current water quality standards.

### **Beneficial Use Designation of Aquifers:**

Review available groundwater data to evaluate beneficial uses and water quality standards. Identify beneficial uses of individual aquifers within hydrologic units. Beneficial uses of groundwater in the Colorado River Basin Region are currently based on hydrologic units. Revise Basin Plan as necessary.

### **Bacteriological Water Quality Objectives and Associated Monitoring Requirements:**

Revise the Basin Plan to: 1) rectify the current limitations of having three bacteria indicator organisms; 2) clarify which indicator organisms apply to which surface waters of the Region; and, as necessary, 3) provide for the development of site-specific objectives.

### **Develop a Policy Statement or Basin Plan Amendment to Recognize Critical Flow Rates in the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (CVSC) and their Temporal Impact on Certain Beneficial Uses of the Channel:**

Staff proposes to amend the Basin Plan to recognize that during extreme flow conditions certain beneficial uses of CVSC, including water contact and non-contact recreation, are temporarily not attained.

### **Develop a Region-wide Policy to Address Discharges of Agricultural Wastewater:**

Staff proposes to amend the Basin Plan to include a water quality control policy to address the potential and/or actual impacts that agricultural wastewater discharges have on the waters of the Region.

### **Guidance in the Application of the State Anti-degradation Policy, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Resolution No. 68-18, "Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California" for NPDES Permits:**

Develop guidance regarding how to apply the State Water Resources Control Board's anti-degradation policy for discharges of pollutants into effluent dominated waters in the Region.

**General Waste Discharge Requirements for On-Site Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Systems for Mobile Home and Recreational Vehicle Parks and Other Similar Facilities (Board Order No. 97-500):**

Staff proposes to update this Order to effectively address the threat that discharges of wastes from septic systems pose to water quality.

**Policy Regarding Potential Sprawl of Package Plants in the High Desert Area of the Region**

Staff proposes to develop policy to: 1) address the proliferation of package plants in the high desert areas of the Region; and 2) develop and adopt interim policy to address discharges of wastes from proposed septic systems.

**Correct Errors and Outdated Information, and Include Referenced Policies:**

Correct errors and outdated information in the Basin Plan. The updates include, but are not limited to:

- Incorporating 2004 SWRCB policy to implement and enforce the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program;
- Expanding discussion of state anti-degradation policy;
- Replacing “wastewater” with “waste” in the general surface water quality criterion for temperature;
- Attaching policies referenced in Section 5 of the 2002 Basin Plan;
- Review current policy for addressing pollution in the New River at the International Boundary; and
- Re-evaluate policy and guidelines developed to protect water quality in the Salton Sea and Colorado River.
- Update paragraphs 5 and 6 of Chapter 1, Section V.C. to indicate that seepage from zones of high groundwater is one of the sources of flow in agricultural drains in the Coachella Valley.
- Update Chapter 1, Section VI.C.2 to acknowledge relevant groundwater recharge projects in the Coachella Valley Ground Water Basin.
- Update Chapter 3, Section III.N to indicate Maximum Contaminant Levels of organic and inorganic chemicals.
- Update Chapter 4, Section II.F to reflect stormwater Phase II MS4 requirements.
- Update Chapter 4, Section IV to reflect completion of the Las Arenitas WWTP (Mexicali II) and the discharge force main for Pumping Plant No 4.

**Sediment and Turbidity Water Quality Objective Implementation:**

Develop guidance to implement and enforce water quality standards for sediment and turbidity for surface waters without sediment TMDLs and incorporate guidance into the Basin Plan. Implementation procedures for sediment and turbidity as they apply to TMDLs are outlined in Chapter 4 of the Basin Plan.

**Develop Water Quality Objectives for Ammonia:**

Review water quality criteria for ammonia and develop Basin Plan water quality objectives in accordance with current U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance.

### **Develop Water Quality Objectives for Residual Chlorine:**

Review water quality criteria for residual chlorine and develop Basin Plan water quality objectives in accordance with current U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance.

### **Develop Water Quality Objectives for Biocriteria:**

Evaluate the need for criteria for biological objectives and to develop Basin Plan water quality objectives in accordance with current U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance.

## **ISSUE 1: Beneficial Use Designation of Surface Waters**

Staff proposes to conduct a region-wide surface water survey to evaluate beneficial uses and water quality standards. Staff will identify standards that require revision, reaffirm suitable standards that require no revision, and subsequently revise the Basin Plan as necessary. This process is part of the reaffirmation requirements for current water quality standards (WQSs). It is estimated that the amendment can be completed with 1.0 person-years (PYs) of additional staff resources.

**BACKGROUND:** The review of water quality standards (i.e., beneficial use designations and water quality objectives) is inherent to the Triennial Review process. A surface water survey should be conducted and a report should be prepared for incorporation into the Basin Plan. The report will be based on written comments and telephone surveys. Staff will solicit and receive public comments on the adequacy of beneficial use designations of surface waters of the Region. Incorporating changes into the Basin Plan may result in modifications to Tables 2-2, 2-3, and 2-4.

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
**Basin Plan Amendment:** Draft a Basin Plan Amendment for Regional Board consideration.

**Regional Board Hearing:** Complete the procedural and substantive requirements necessary to conduct a Regional Board hearing to consider the Basin Plan Amendment.

**RESOURCES REQUIRED:** At least 1.0 PYs of existing staff resources.

**PRIORITY:** Medium

## **ISSUE 2: Beneficial Use Designation of Aquifers**

Staff proposes to review available groundwater data to evaluate beneficial uses and evaluate water quality standards, and to identify beneficial uses of individual aquifers within hydrologic units. Beneficial uses of groundwater in the Colorado River Basin Region are currently based on hydrologic units. Staff will revise the Basin Plan as necessary.

BACKGROUND:

The beneficial use designations for ground water contained in the Basin Plan are presented in Table 2-5. These beneficial uses are designated on a hydrologic unit basis rather than on an aquifer basis. In other words, if a use occurs within a single aquifer in a hydrologic unit, the entire hydrologic unit is designated with the use.

**TABLE 2-5: BENEFICIAL USES OF GROUND WATERS IN THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN<sup>1</sup>**

Area Code	Hydrologic Unit	MUN <sup>2</sup>	IND	AGR
<b>Lucerne Planning Area</b>				
701.00	Lucerne hydrologic unit	X	X	X
702.00	Johnson hydrologic unit	X	X	X
703.00	Bessemer hydrologic unit			
704.00	Means hydrologic unit	X		
705.00	Emerson hydrologic unit	X		X
706.00	Lavic hydrologic unit			
707.00	Deadman hydrologic unit	X		
708.00	Joshua Tree hydrologic unit	X	X	
709.00	Dale hydrologic unit	X	X	X
710.00	Bristol hydrologic unit	X	X	X
711.00	Cadiz hydrologic unit	X	X	
712.00	Ward hydrologic unit	X		X
<b>Hayfield Planning Area</b>				
716.00	Rice hydrologic unit	X		
717.00	Chuckwalla hydrologic unit	X	X	X
718.00	Hayfield hydrologic unit			
<b>Coachella Valley Planning Area</b>				
719.00	Whitewater hydrologic unit			
719.10	Morongo hydrologic subunit <sup>3</sup>	X		
719.20	Shavers hydrologic subunit	X		
719.30	San Gorgonio hydrologic subunit	X	X	X
719.40	Coachella hydrologic subunit	X	X	X
725.00	East Salton Sea hydrologic unit	X		X
<b>Imperial Valley Planning Area</b>				
723.00	Imperial hydrologic unit	X	X	
724.00	Davies hydrologic unit			
726.00	Amos-Ogilby hydrologic unit	X		
<b>Anza-Borrego Planning Area</b>				
720.00	Clark hydrologic unit	X		
721.00	West Salton Sea hydrologic unit	X		X
722.00	Anza-Borrego hydrologic unit	X	X	X
<b>Colorado River Planning Area (East Colorado River Basin)</b>				
713.00	Piute hydrologic unit	X	X	X
714.00	Chemehuevi hydrologic unit	X		X
715.00	Colorado hydrologic unit	X	X	X
727.00	Yuma hydrologic unit	X		X

**Footnotes for Table 2-5**

1. Ground waters are important to sustain vegetation for wildlife habitat in some areas where surface waters are not present.
2. At such time as the need arises to know whether a particular aquifer which has no known existing MUN use should be considered as a source of drinking water, the Regional Board will make such a determination based on the criteria listed in the "Sources of Drinking Water Policy" in Chapter 2 of this Basin Plan. An "X" placed under the MUN in this Table for a particular hydrologic unit indicates only that at least one of the aquifers in that unit currently supports a MUN beneficial use. For example, the actual MUN usage of the Imperial hydrologic unit is limited only to a small portion of that ground water unit.
3. The term "hydrologic subunit" has the same meaning as the term "hydrologic area."

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Budget Change Proposal:** Develop a Budget Change Proposal (BCP) Concept Paper for State Fiscal Year 2008-2009. If the concept is not approved, continue to pursue funding.

**Review:** Review all available groundwater data. This work could be completed by staff, or contracted to third parties.

**Report:** Synthesize collected data into a report (and perhaps a Geographical Information System database). This work could be completed by staff, or contracted to third parties.

**Draft Amendment:** Draft a Basin Plan Amendment for Regional Board consideration, recommending changes to the beneficial use designations of groundwater to correspond to individual groundwater aquifers within hydrologic units. The proposed changes also will be based on the review of "Sources of Drinking Water Policy" (State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 88-63). These changes would result in an updated version of Table 2-5 and a more detailed map of groundwater aquifers in this Region.

**Regional Board Hearing:** Complete the procedural and substantive requirements necessary to conduct a Regional Board Hearing to consider the Basin Plan Amendment.

**RESOURCES REQUIRED:** 1.0 – 2.0 PYs of additional staff resources.

**PRIORITY:** Medium

**ISSUE 3: Bacteriological Water Quality Objectives and Associated Monitoring Requirements**

Staff propose to revise the Basin Plan to: 1) rectify the current limitations of having three bacteria indicator organisms; 2) clarify which indicator organisms apply to which surface waters of the Region; and, as necessary 3) provide for the development of site-specific objectives.



**BACKGROUND:** The Basin Plan establishes pathogen water quality objectives for all surface waters within the Region by using three bacteria indicator organisms: fecal coliforms, E. coli, and enterococci. These water quality objectives are established mainly for the protection of water contact recreation (REC-I) and non-contact water recreation (REC-II) in surface waters.

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
**Review:** Review relevant sections of the Basin Plan to ensure that only one bacteria indicator organism is designated, as appropriate.

**Basin Plan Amendment:** Draft a Basin Plan Amendment for Regional Board consideration, recommending changes.

**Regional Board Hearing:** Complete the procedural and substantive requirements necessary to conduct a Regional Board hearing to consider the Basin Plan Amendment.

**RESOURCES REQUIRED:** At least 0.5 PYs of existing staff resources.

**PRIORITY:** High

#### **ISSUE 4: Critical Flow Rates in the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (CVSC) and their Temporal Impact on Certain Beneficial Uses of the Channel**

**BACKGROUND:** Certain precipitation events in the Coachella Valley may trigger extreme flow conditions in the CVSC and its tributaries. These events generate precipitation runoff that goes into the CVSC and poses a hazard to public health and safety. As a result of these events, certain beneficial uses of CVSC, including water contact and non-contact water recreation, are temporarily not attained. The Basin Plan should be revised to address this situation.

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
**Review:** Review relevant sections of the Basin Plan to determine which sections need to be updated.

**Basin Plan Amendment:** Draft a Basin Plan Amendment for Regional Board consideration, recommending changes.

**Regional Board Hearing:** Complete the procedural and substantive requirements necessary to conduct a Regional Board hearing to consider the Basin Plan Amendment.

**RESOURCES REQUIRED:** At least 0.5 PYs of existing staff resources.

**PRIORITY:** High

## ISSUE 5: Policy to Address Discharges of Agricultural Wastewater

Staff propose to amend the Basin Plan to include a water quality control policy to address the potential and/or actual impacts that agricultural wastewater discharges have on the waters of the Region.

**BACKGROUND:** For any person proposing to discharge waste, or who is discharging waste which could affect the quality of the waters of the State, the Regional Board may, under California Water Code Section 13269, waive one, or both, of the requirements to: 1) file a Report of Waste Discharge, and 2) prescribe waste discharge requirements for the discharge. Such waivers are conditional, however, and can only be considered if the Regional Board, after any necessary public meeting, determines that the waiver is consistent with any applicable State or Regional Water Quality Control Plan and is in the public interest. To make this determination, the Regional Board must first evaluate the manner in which a waste should be regulated. Thus, with respect to agricultural wastewater, the Regional Board must determine whether to regulate discharges of wastes (e.g., agricultural runoff) from agricultural sources through issuance of: 1) waste discharge requirements, 2) a conditional waiver of requirements, or 3) a prohibition against any discharge. Discharges of agricultural return flows in the Coachella Valley and Bard Valley fail to comply with Section 13269 in that existing waivers issued for such discharges have since expired. Pursuant to and consistent with California Water Code Section 13269, the Regional Board must develop water quality control policy to address the potential and/or actual impacts that these discharges have on the waters of the Region.

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
Investigate and Review: Begin background information and hydrogeologic data collection for effected areas.

Staff Report: Develop staff report(s) regarding agriculture runoff in the effected areas and potential strategies to comply with the Nonpoint Source Implementation and Enforcement Policy.

Basin Plan Amendment: Draft Basin Plan Amendment(s) for Regional Board consideration.

Regional Board Hearing: Complete procedural and substantive requirements necessary to conduct a Regional Board hearing to consider the Basin Plan Amendment(s).

**RESOURCES REQUIRED:** At least 1.0 PYs of additional staff resources.

**PRIORITY:** High

## **ISSUE 6: Clarification of State Antidegradation Policy -- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Resolution No. 68-16, "Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California"**

Staff proposes to expand the Basin Plan's discussion on SWRCB anti-degradation policy to explain consistency with federal anti-degradation policy and how the State Nonpoint Source Program implements the policy.

**BACKGROUND:** The Basin Plan refers to the SWRCB anti-degradation policy in Chapter 5 - Plans, Policies, and Issues as an applicable SWRCB policy. As requested by USEPA, discussion needs to be provided in Chapter 5 to explain the policy's intent; why the state policy is consistent with federal policy; how the State Nonpoint Source Program implements the policy; and how the Colorado River Basin Region implements the policy.

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
Basin Plan Amendment: Draft a Basin Plan Amendment for Regional Board consideration.

Regional Board Hearing: Complete the procedural and substantive requirements necessary to conduct a Regional Board hearing to consider the Basin Plan Amendment.

**RESOURCES REQUIRED:** At least 0.2 PYs of additional staff resources.

**PRIORITY:** High

## **ISSUE 7: General Waste Discharge Requirements for On-Site Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Systems for Mobile Home and Recreational Vehicle Parks and Other Similar Facilities (Board Order No. 97-500):**

Staff proposes to update this Order to effectively address the threat that discharges of wastes from septic systems pose to water quality.

**BACKGROUND:** Board Order No. 97-500 applies to mobile home and recreational vehicle parks, shopping centers, restaurants, residential developments, schools, camps, and other commercial facilities. It is inconsistent with current State regulations and Board policies, and fails to effectively address the threat that discharges of wastes from septic systems pose to water quality, particularly in the areas of Yucca Valley, Twentynine Palms, Coachella Valley, Joshua Tree, Colorado River communities, and Pinyon Pines.

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
Basin Plan Amendment: Draft a Basin Plan Amendment for Regional Board consideration.

Regional Board Hearing: Complete the procedural and substantive requirements necessary to conduct a Regional Board hearing to consider the Basin Plan Amendment.

RESOURCES REQUIRED: At least 0.2 PYs of additional staff resources.

PRIORITY: Medium

## **ISSUE 8: Policy Regarding Potential Sprawl of Package Plants in the High Desert Area of the Region:**

A policy is needed to: 1) address the proliferation of package plants in the high desert areas of the Region; and 2) develop and adopt interim policy to address discharges of wastes from proposed septic systems.

**BACKGROUND:** During the last eight years, the Town of Yucca Valley, City of Twentynine Palms, and Community of Joshua Tree have experienced growth. These communities rely on local groundwater for municipal/domestic purposes, but each of them lacks a municipal sewage collection and treatment system (SCTS). Essentially, wastewater treatment and disposal in these communities is accomplished via septic tank-leachfield systems, which pose a significant threat to groundwater quality, and at least with respect to the Town of Yucca Valley, have already contributed to nitrate contamination of groundwater. The Town of Yucca Valley and the Hi-Desert Water District have made building such a municipal SCTS a priority and expect to complete construction of the system within four years. The City of Twentynine Palms is exploring the possibility of working with the United States Marine Corps Base near Twentynine Palms to build a municipal system that would service both the Base and the City. Further, the Community of Joshua Tree is conducting a hydrogeologic study with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to determine the appropriate density of septic systems its community can have without adversely impacting local groundwater quality.

The Regional Board does not have a waiver of requirements for discharges of wastes from septic systems in the Region. The Regional Board has adopted waste discharge requirements for discharges of wastes from wastewater treatment package plants that service commercial and residential developments in the Town of Yucca Valley and City of Twentynine Palms. The Regional Board should develop and adopt policy to: 1) address the proliferation of package plants in these areas; and 2) develop and adopt interim policy to address discharges of wastes from proposed septic systems in these communities while: a) the Town of Yucca Valley and City of Twentynine Palms build their municipal SCTS; and b) the Community of Joshua Tree completes

its USGS study and begins to implement controls on individual systems in Joshua Tree.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Basin Plan Amendment: Draft a Basin Plan Amendment for Regional Board consideration.

Regional Board Hearing: Complete the procedural and substantive requirements necessary to conduct a Regional Board hearing to consider the Basin Plan Amendment.

RESOURCES REQUIRED: At least 0.5 PYs of additional staff resources.

PRIORITY: High

## **ISSUE 9: Correct Errors and Outdated Information, and Include Referenced Policies**

Staff proposes to correct errors and outdated information in the Basin Plan. The updates include, but are not limited to:

- Incorporating 2004 SWRCB policy to implement and enforce the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program;
- Expanding discussion of state anti-degradation policy;
- Replacing “wastewater” with “waste” in the general surface water quality criterion for temperature;
- Attaching policies referenced in Section 5 of the 2002 Basin Plan;
- Review current policy for addressing pollution in the New River at the International Boundary; and
- Re-evaluate policy and guidelines developed to protect water quality in the Salton Sea and Colorado River.
- Update paragraphs 5 and 6 of Chapter 1, Section V.C. to indicate that seepage from zones of high groundwater is one of the sources of flow in agricultural drains in the Coachella Valley.
- Update Chapter 1, Section VI.C.2 to acknowledge relevant groundwater recharge projects in the Coachella Valley Ground Water Basin.
- Update Chapter 3, Section III.N to indicate Maximum Contaminant Levels of organic and inorganic chemicals.
- Update Chapter 4, Section II.F to reflect stormwater Phase II MS4 requirements.
- Chapter 4, Section IV to reflect completion of the Las Arenitas WWTP (Mexicali II) and the discharge forcemain for Pumping Plant No. 4.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Basin Plan contains a few errors, typos, and outdated information. In addition, the Basin Plan does not include many of the policies that are referenced within the document.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Basin Plan Amendment: Draft a Basin Plan Amendment for Regional Board consideration.

RESOURCES REQUIRED: At least 0.2 PYs of additional staff resources.

PRIORITY: Medium

## **ISSUE 10: Sediment and Turbidity Water Quality Objective Implementation**

Staff proposes to develop guidance to implement and enforce water quality standards for sediment and turbidity for surface waters without sediment TMDLs and incorporate guidance into the Basin Plan. Implementation procedures for sediment and turbidity as they apply to TMDLs are outlined in Chapter 4 of the Basin Plan.

**BACKGROUND:** Existing narrative sediment and turbidity water quality objectives are found in Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) requests Regional Board staff clarify implementation and enforcement of sediment and turbidity standards in waters in the region without Sediment/Silt TMDLs. Guidance and/or policy on this topic needs to be developed by staff.

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
Basin Plan Amendment: Draft a Basin Plan Amendment for Regional Board consideration to incorporate new guidance/policy.

Regional Board Hearing: Complete the procedural and substantive requirements necessary to conduct a Regional Board hearing to consider the Basin Plan Amendment.

RESOURCES REQUIRED: At least 1.0 PYs of additional staff resources.

PRIORITY: Medium

## **ISSUE 11: Develop Water Quality Objectives for Ammonia**

Staff proposes to review water quality criteria for ammonia and develop Basin Plan water quality objectives in accordance with current US EPA guidance and relevant state policies.

**BACKGROUND:** Water quality criteria for ammonia are not currently outlined in the Basin Plan. On December 22, 1999, US EPA published revised national criteria guidance for ammonia in the Federal Register. US EPA recommends adopting control levels for these non-priority pollutants suitable to protecting water quality and beneficial uses for waters in the region. US EPA requests that this issue be ranked as high priority for incorporation into our Basin Plan.

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
Review: Review current US EPA water quality criteria guidelines.

Staff Report: Prepare a staff report that proposes an appropriate control level that protects beneficial uses.

Basin Plan Amendment: Draft a Basin Plan Amendment for Regional Board consideration.

Regional Board Hearing: Complete the procedural and substantive requirements necessary to conduct a Regional Board hearing to consider the Basin Plan Amendment.

RESOURCES REQUIRED: At least 1.0 PYs of additional resources.

PRIORITY: Medium

## **ISSUE 12: Develop Water Quality Objectives for Residual Chlorine**

Staff proposes to review water quality criteria for residual chlorine and develop Basin Plan water quality objectives in accordance with current US EPA guidance.

BACKGROUND: Water quality criteria for residual chlorine are currently not outlined in the Basin Plan. US EPA recommends adopting an appropriate control level for this pollutant suitable to protect water quality and beneficial uses of the Region's waters. US EPA requests that this issue be ranked as high priority for incorporation into our Basin Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:  
Review: Review current US EPA water quality criteria guidelines for residual chlorine.

Staff Report: Prepare a staff report that proposes an appropriate control level that protects beneficial uses.

Basin Plan Amendment: Draft a Basin Plan Amendment for Regional Board consideration.

Regional Board Hearing: Complete the procedural and substantive requirements necessary to conduct a Regional Board hearing to consider the Basin Plan Amendment.

RESOURCES REQUIRED: At least 1.0 PYs of additional resources.

PRIORITY: Medium

## **ISSUE 13: Develop Water Quality Objectives for Biocriteria**

Staff proposes to evaluate the need for criteria for biological objectives and to develop Basin Plan water quality objectives in accordance with current US EPA guidance.

**BACKGROUND:** Water quality objectives for biocriteria are currently not outlined in the Basin Plan. US EPA strongly encourages the Regional Board to develop and adopt biological criteria for inclusion in our Basin Plan.

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
**Review:** Review current US EPA water quality biocriteria guidelines.

**Staff Report:** Prepare a staff report that proposes an appropriate control level that protects beneficial uses.

**Basin Plan Amendment:** Draft a Basin Plan Amendment for Regional Board consideration.

**Regional Board Hearing:** Complete the procedural and substantive requirements necessary to conduct a Regional Board hearing to consider the Basin Plan Amendment.

**RESOURCES REQUIRED:** At least 1.0 PYs of additional resources.

**PRIORITY:** Medium

## **SUMMARY**

Table 1 summarizes all the issues addressed previous sections regarding consideration for Basin Plan 2007 Triennial Review. The table also summarizes required resources to complete each task and priority of the work.



Table 1 Summary of water quality issues under consideration for the Triennial Review and required resources.

Issue	Priority	Required Resources
1. Beneficial Use Designation of Surface Waters	Medium	≥1.0 PYs of existing staff resources
2. Beneficial Use Designation of Aquifers	Medium	1.0 - 2.0 PYs of additional staff resources
3. Bacteriological Water Quality Objectives	High	≥0.5 PYs of existing staff resources
4. Critical Flow Rates in the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel	High	≥0.5 PYs of existing staff resources
5. Discharges of Agricultural Wastewater	High	≥1.0 PYs of existing staff resources
6. Clarification of State Antidegradation Policy	High	≥0.2 PYs of existing staff resources
7. On-site Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Systems	Medium	≥0.2 PYs of additional staff resources
8. Potential Sprawl of Package Plants in the High Desert	High	≥0.5 PYs of additional staff resources
9. Correct Errors, Outdated Information, and Include Referenced Policies	Medium	≥0.2 PYs of additional staff resources
10. Sediment and Turbidity Water Quality Objective Implementation	Medium	≥1.0 PYs of additional staff resources
11. Develop Water Quality Objectives for Ammonia	Medium	≥1.0 PYs of additional staff resources
12. Develop Water Quality Objectives for Residual Chlorine	Medium	≥1.0 PYs of additional staff resources
13. Develop Water Quality Objectives for Biocriteria	Medium	≥1.0 PYs of additional staff resources
Total Resources Required		≥ 1.8 existing PYs; and ≥ 7.3 – 8.3 additional PYs