

# State Water Resources Control Board

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## **STATE WATER BOARD REJECTS MERCURY TMDL TMDL BACK TO SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGIONAL BOARD**

**SACRAMENTO**-The State Water Board today rejected a water pollution plan for mercury and sent it back to the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board where staff must make revisions.

The State Water Board found that the Total Maximum Daily Load for mercury does not adequately address numerous issues.

Today in a 4-to-1 vote, the State Board ordered in part that the San Francisco Bay Regional Board do the following:

- Revise wasteload allocations to ensure that municipal and industrial point source dischargers are performing at the best level possible.
- Develop a correct numeric water quality objective for mercury.
- Ensure that the TMDL requires compliance with the long-term management strategy for discharge of dredged material.
- Present a new TMDL in nine months to the State Board that complies with the resolution, and report on its progress within six months.

The State Board directed its staff to develop a policy that would allow dischargers to comply with pollution limits by cleaning up mercury elsewhere in the watershed. The State Board also directed that no dischargers should be held responsible for more than their fair share contribution to the impairment.

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