

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Richard Looker)
MEETING DATE: December 16, 2015

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: **2015 Triennial Review of the San Francisco Bay Basin Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) - Adoption of Resolution and List of Prioritized Basin Planning Projects**

CHRONOLOGY: November 2012 – Most recent Triennial Review Resolution adopted

DISCUSSION: This item is for the Board to consider adoption of a Resolution and Prioritized List of Basin Planning projects that may result in amendments to the Basin Plan. This package includes the Tentative Resolution and list of prioritized basin plan projects (Appendix A), the supporting Triennial Review Staff Report (Appendix B), written comment letters received (Appendix C), and our responses to those comments (Appendix D).

The Basin Plan is the master policy document for the Water Board, establishing water quality standards, which consist of beneficial uses for all waters in the Region, the water quality objectives necessary to protect those uses, and the implementation plans, policies, and programs designed to meet the standards. The Triennial Review is conducted to meet State Water Code (section 13240) and federal Clean Water Act (303(c)(1)) requirements. The Triennial Review provides the opportunity to review the water quality standards and identify portions of the Basin Plan that need to be updated or modified to improve the efficiency and environmental protection associated with permitting and other programs. Since we only have two funded staff positions for Basin Plan activities, the Triennial Review also serves as a process to set priorities for using staff resources.

We began the Triennial Review process in early 2015, reviewing the status of the list of Basin Plan issues identified during the previous Triennial Review completed in 2012, and identifying new issues for consideration. In July 2015, we produced a “Brief Issue Descriptions” paper, describing a wide range of candidate projects, held a stakeholder workshop in August, and asked stakeholders for input. We also included our priorities for Basin Plan amendments to establish Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for pollutants causing impairment of waters in the Region. In addition to comments received during the stakeholder workshop, we received eighteen comment letters. Stakeholders provided input towards developing and refining a list of 30 proposed Basin Planning projects and the associated ranking criteria scores for prioritizing the projects. The Triennial Review Staff Report includes a

summary of the public participation process, description of the ranking criteria, and the list, descriptions, and rankings of the projects.

The high priority Basin Plan projects, excluding TMDL projects, include the following:

- Review and Refine Dissolved Oxygen Objectives for San Francisco Bay
- Climate Change and Water Resources Policy
- Develop Numeric Nutrient Endpoints (NNEs) in Freshwater Streams and Estuaries
- Develop Nutrient Water Quality Objectives for San Francisco Bay Estuary
- Using Wastewater to Create, Restore, and Enhance Wetlands
- Lake Merced Dissolved Oxygen and pH Objectives

The draft Staff Report and list of proposed priority projects were circulated to interested parties on October 22, 2015. We received four comment letters during the public comment period (October 22 – November 23, 2015). Those letters included comments from U.S. EPA, Wil Bruhns, Living Rivers Council, and the City of Daly City. Staff has responded to all of the issues raised by the public, which were generally supportive of this planning process. During the public comment period, Living Rivers Council identified an additional project for consideration to develop in-stream flow objectives. We developed a project description for this candidate project and consider it an important project to evaluate during the next Triennial Review. We appreciate all the interest and input from stakeholders.

**RECOMMEN-
DATION:**

Adopt the Tentative Resolution and List of Prioritized Basin Planning Projects

APPENDICES:

- A. Tentative Resolution and List of Prioritized Basin Planning Projects
- B. Triennial Review Staff Report
- C. Comment Letters
- D. Responses to Comments