



Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary

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Water Boards
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Division of Water Rights
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Chapter III. Water Quality Objectives

A water quality control plan must contain such water quality objectives as are needed to ensure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses and the prevention of nuisance. (Wat. Code, § 13241.) The State Water Board must consider, in establishing water quality objectives:

- The past, present, and probable future beneficial uses of water;
- The environmental characteristics of the hydrographic unit under consideration, including the quality of water available thereto;
- The water quality conditions that could reasonably be achieved through the coordinated control of all factors that affect water quality in the area;
- Economic considerations;
- The need for developing housing within the region;
- The need to develop and use recycled water. (Wat. Code, § 13241.)

Flow and water project operations are within the scope of objectives that can be adopted in a water quality control plan under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

This chapter establishes water quality objectives which, in conjunction with the water quality objectives for the Bay-Delta Estuary that are included in other State Water Board adopted water quality control plans and in water quality control plans for the Central Valley and San Francisco Bay Basins, when implemented, will: (1) provide for reasonable protection of municipal, industrial, and agricultural beneficial uses; (2) provide reasonable protection of fish and wildlife beneficial uses at a level which stabilizes or enhances the conditions of aquatic resources; and (3) prevent nuisance. These water quality objectives are established to attain the highest quality of water that is reasonable, considering all the demands being made on waters in the Estuary.

The water quality objectives in this plan apply to waters of the San Francisco Bay system and the legal Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, as specified in the objectives. Unless otherwise indicated, water quality objectives cited for a general area, such as for the southern Delta, are applicable for all locations in that general area and compliance locations will be used to determine compliance with the cited objectives. Tables 1, 2, and 3 contain the water quality objectives for the protection of municipal and industrial, agricultural, and fish and wildlife beneficial uses, respectively.

A. Water Quality Objectives for Municipal and Industrial Beneficial Uses

The water quality objectives in Table 1 provide reasonable protection of the beneficial uses MUN, IND, and PRO, from the effects of salinity intrusion. These municipal and industrial objectives also provide protection for the beneficial uses of REC-1, REC-2, and GWR. These objectives are unchanged from the 1995 Bay-Delta Plan.