

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2011-0031**

**APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE
LOS ANGELES REGION BASIN TO UPDATE THE BACTERIA OBJECTIVES FOR
FRESHWATERS DESIGNATED FOR WATER CONTACT RECREATION BY
REMOVING THE FECAL COLIFORM OBJECTIVE**

WHEREAS:

1. In 1986, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) published recommended criteria for bacteria. That document contained U.S. EPA's recommendation that *E. coli* replace fecal coliform as the bacteria indicator for water quality objectives in water bodies used for recreation. That recommendation is based on studies which concluded that *E. coli* is a more reliable indicator of risk to public health than fecal coliform.
2. On October 25, 2001, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board) adopted, by [Resolution No. R01-018](#), an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan) to update the bacteria objectives for freshwaters designated for water contact recreation and limited water contact recreation (REC-1 and LREC-1, respectively) uses (2001 Amendment). The 2001 amendment was approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) on June 18, 2002 under [Resolution 2002-0142](#), by Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on September 19, 2002, and U.S. EPA on September 25, 2002.
3. The 2001 amendment added water quality objectives for *E. coli* in freshwater but did not remove the fecal coliform objective. Rather, the 2001 amendment included the dual sets of applicable objectives to provide a transition period for incorporation of *E. coli* objectives into water quality programs, and for collection of data on the new *E. coli* objective to establish an adequate monitoring database. Such transition period is recommended in U.S. EPA's "Draft Implementation Guidance for 'Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Bacteria'" (U.S. EPA, 2002). U.S. EPA's guidance document generally recommends a single triennial review cycle for the transition period. Los Angeles Water Board's transition period has extended through three single triennial review cycles.
4. On July 8, 2010, the Los Angeles Water Board adopted, by [Resolution No. R10-005](#), an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan) updating the bacteria objectives for freshwaters designated for REC-1 and LREC-1 by removing the fecal coliform objective (amendment).
5. The Los Angeles Water Board approved the amendment pursuant to the Water Board's certified regulatory program, as set forth in the California Code of Regulations, Title 23, section 3720 et seq. which satisfies the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.). The Los Angeles Water Board found that the "Substitute Environmental Document" for the proposed Basin Plan amendment, including the CEQA Checklist, the staff report, the comments and responses to comments, complies with the requirements of the State Water Board's certified regulatory CEQA process, as set forth in the California Code of Regulations, Title 23, section 3775 et seq. The State Water Board has reviewed the Substitute Environmental Documentation and concurs with the Los Angeles Water Board's findings.

6. The State Water Board finds the Los Angeles Water Board complied with the requirements set forth in sections 13240, 13241, and 13242 of the California Water Code.
7. The Los Angeles Water Board finds the amendment is consistent with the State Antidegradation Policy ([State Board Resolution No. 68-16](#)), and the Federal Antidegradation Policy (40 CFR 131.12), in that it does not allow degradation of water quality and ensures that beneficial uses are fully protected.
8. Los Angeles Water Board staff determined that minor, non-substantive changes to the language of the amendment were necessary to clarify, correct, or improve consistency. On January 6, 2011, the Los Angeles Water Board's Executive Officer made these minor changes in a [memorandum](#), dated January 6, 2011.
9. A Basin Plan amendment does not become effective until approved by the State Water Board and until the regulatory provisions are approved by OAL. The objectives must also be approved by U.S. EPA.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Approves the amendment to the Basin Plan adopted under Los Angeles Water Board Resolution No. R10-005.
2. Authorizes the Executive Director or designee to submit the amendment adopted under Los Angeles Water Board Resolution No. R10-005 to OAL to approve the regulatory provisions and the U.S. EPA to approve the updated objectives.

CERTIFICATION


The undersigned Clerk to the Board does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on July 19, 2011.

AYE: Chairman Charles R. Hoppin
 Vice Chair Frances Spivy-Weber
 Board Member Tam M. Doduc

 NAY: None

 ABSENT: None

 ABSTAIN: None



 Jeanine Townsend
 Clerk to the Board