STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 12-13, 20, 2019

Prepared on November 14, 2019

ITEM NUMBER: **14**

SUBJECT: **Executive Officer's Report to the Board**

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ACTION: **Information / Discussion**

KEY INFORMATION

This item presents a brief discussion of issues that may interest the Board. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any item.

INTEGRATED REPORT UPDATE

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Introduction

This is an informational update regarding changes to the process for updating and approving the Integrated Report, which includes the federal Clean Water Act section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and section 305(b) Surface Water Quality Conditions Report. The Clean Water Act section 303(d) List identifies waterbodies that do not meet one or more water quality standards[1] and are therefore "impaired". Clean Water Act section 305(b) requires states to report to USEPA on the condition of its surface water quality, including both impaired waterbodies and those that are attaining water quality standards.

In August of this year, Central Coast Water Board staff began working on the preliminary steps to develop the 2020 Integrated Report. Those steps are listed below with target completion dates for each step. The 2020 Integrated Report will build upon the approved 2014/2016 Integrated Report, available at this website: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2014_2016.shtml.

Changes to the Approval Process

States are required to submit their 303(d) List and 305(b) Report to the USEPA on April 1st of every even-numbered year (40 C.F.R. § 130.7(d)). To achieve compliance

[1] USEPA defines water quality standards as consisting of three elements: designated uses for each waterbody, criteria to protect those uses, and consideration of the antidegradation requirements. See https://www.epa.gov/standards-water-body-health/what-are-water-quality-standards

with this requirement, the State Water Board developed a strategy whereby the Integrated Report is developed in two-year "cycles" and each cycle consists primarily of data assessments from only three Regional Water Boards (see Table 1). In addition, the State Water Board is automating some of the data analysis steps and implementing other efficiencies in the process to reduce the length of time needed to complete a cycle (which currently takes up to four years). For example, the State Water Board will administer the public process on behalf of the three Regional Water Boards, thus reducing the approval process by at least six months. Although this eliminates the Regional Water Board approval process, the Central Coast Water Board will host a Public Workshop during the State Water Board public comment period, anticipated for Fall/Winter 2021.

Table 1. Integrated Report Schedule

Integrated Report Title	"On-Cycle" Regions	Status	Target USEPA Submission Date
2018 California Integrated Report	North Coast (R1), Lahontan (R6), Colorado River Basin (R7)	In progress. State Water Board Hearing anticipated for October 2020	December 2020
2020 California Integrated Report	Central Coast (R3), Central Valley (R5), San Diego (R9)	In progress. Water Board Public Workshop anticipated for Fall/Winter 2021	April 1, 2022
2024 California Integrated Report	San Francisco Bay (R2), Los Angeles (R4), Santa Ana (R8)	Cycle will begin early 2020	April 1, 2024

Integrated Report Development Steps

The five major steps in the process to develop and gain approval for the 2020 Integrated Report are summarized below with a target completion date for each step.

1. **Data Solicitation (Completed June 2019):** A cycle is formally initiated with a six-month data solicitation period, wherein the public are notified of a cut-off date to submit data and information for consideration in the Integrated Report.

2. **Data Organization and Mapping (Completed December 6, 2019):** A six-month process to organize data, review data quality, map sampling locations, and identify appropriate water quality standards for each pollutant and beneficial use.

3. **Data Analysis (Target Completion Date – December 2020):** This step takes approximately one year. First, staff develop "lines of evidence" or LOEs that summarize the data and water quality standards for each waterbody. Staff then

combine the LOEs into a “decision” (i.e., add/do not add to the 303(d) List, or remove from the 303(d) List). The Central Coast Water Board’s 2014/2016 Integrated Report included 11,192 LOEs combined into 5,438 decisions. For the 2020 cycle, staff anticipate adding 20,000+ new LOEs.

4. **Water Board Public Process (Target Completion Date – November or December 2021):** For the 2020 Integrated Report, the State Water Board will administer the public process on behalf of the three Regional Water Boards. The process includes preparation of the staff report, a public comment period, responding to comments, and holding the Water Board hearing.

5. **Submittal to USEPA (Target Completion Date – April 2022):** It takes approximately three months to finalize the Integrated Report documentation for submittal via the USEPA database. The USEPA has 30-days to review.

WDR PROGRAM

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New Law Bans Sale and Use of Formaldehyde in Recreation Vehicle Holding Tanks

Senate Bill 317 was signed into law by Governor Newsom on September 26, 2019. This law bans the sale and use of recreational vehicle (RV) holding tank products with formaldehyde and other chemicals beginning in 2022. The passage of this legislation is thanks in part to work by staff in the Central Coast Water Board’s Waste Discharge Requirement Unit who identified the potential impact of these products to groundwater quality in our region.

Many RV parks in our region discharge RV holding tank wastewater to their onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS, sometimes referred to as septic systems). Formaldehyde and other chemicals are used to control odors in the RV by killing bacteria in the holding tank but they end up in the RV park’s OWTS. The chemicals kill the needed healthy bacteria inside the OWTS and can inhibit OWTS from functioning properly (e.g., by inhibiting the system’s ability to lower nitrogen levels). The chemicals can also show up in nearby drinking water wells and contaminate drinking water aquifers and surface waters.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Table 1 - 401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received
2. Table 2 - 401 Water Quality Certifications Issued
3. Table 3 - Groundwater Section, Case Closure Performance Scoreboard
4. Table 4 - Groundwater Case Closures
5. Table 5 - Enrollments In General Orders/Waivers