

State Water Resources Control Board

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STATE BOARD RELEASES DRAFT LIST OF WATER BODIES NOT MEETING QUALITY STANDARDS, INVITES PUBLIC'S COMMENTS

SACRAMENTO - The State Water Resources Control Board has listed streams, rivers and lakes within California that appear to not meet water quality standards. The Board will hold two workshops in December to determine whether any water bodies should be added to or dropped from the draft list.

The list is compiled as part of the Board's ongoing commitment to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources and is required by Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act.

More data are available (statewide) this year than ever before and some water bodies may have been added to the list because of newly available data, not because of actual degradation to water quality. Conversely, some individual stream sections may have dropped from the list because of a lack of specific data. The most recent comparable list was released in 2002 with 1,883 water body-pollutant *combinations*. The new draft list proposes dropping 177 of those and adding 464. (Note that each addition may represent an additional, specific pollutant found in a single body of water or stream/river section and *not an additional* body of water.) The scheduled workshops will aid the Board in determining if all the proposed additions and deletions are justified. The list will be made final next year.

The Clean Water Act requires states to periodically identify water bodies that do not meet quality standards. States are required to provide lists to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for those water bodies. TMDLs are the maximum load of a pollutant that can be discharged into the water body without exceeding water quality standards.

For each water body on the list, the State Water Board includes a description of pollutants and the schedules for developing TMDLs in the future.

The State Water Board will hear public comments on proposed revisions to the list on December 1, 2005, at the Pasadena Hilton beginning at 10 a.m. and on December 6, 2005, at the State Water Board's Sierra Hearing room in Sacramento, also beginning at 10 a.m. The Pasadena Hilton is located at 168 South Los Robles Avenue. The State Water Resources Control Board is at 1001 I Street. The Sierra Hearing Room is located on the second floor.

The draft proposal 303(d) list is posted on the State Water Resources Control Board Web site at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/tmdl/303d_update.html.

All comments on the proposed changes to the proposed list be submitted by email, mail, or fax, and postmarked no later than 5:00 p.m., December 6, 2005.

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