

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Sarah Raker)
MEETING DATE: October 19, 2005

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: **Proposed Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan) for the 2005 General Update with Non-regulatory Revisions** – Hearing to Consider Adoption of Proposed Basin Plan Amendment

CHRONOLOGY: June 1995 – Most recent general update of San Francisco Bay Basin Plan
August 2005 – Public Notice of proposed Basin Plan amendment

DISCUSSION: At this hearing the Board will be asked to adopt a Resolution (Appendix A) that will amend the Basin Plan with non-regulatory changes and provide more current program descriptions for surface water, groundwater, and wetlands. This proposed Basin Plan Amendment meets several objectives set forth in the 2004 Basin Plan Triennial Review. The last general update of the Basin Plan occurred in 1995. The sheer volume of these needed changes warranted a separate, non-regulatory amendment rather than coupling them with proposed regulatory changes.

This proposed Basin Plan amendment does not contain any proposed changes in regulations or any changes in surface water quality objectives. Rather, it contains information, corrections, and general references and therefore does not require scientific peer review or CEQA analysis. The new language and revised tables and figures are intended solely for the convenience of the Basin Plan user. A new system of numbering is proposed to facilitate citation.

The scope of the proposed Basin Plan changes is not intended to be exhaustive. Non-regulatory revisions presented in this proposed Basin Plan amendment are for programs that have undergone significant changes since 1995, and do not include proposed revisions to the programs that are currently undergoing major regulatory review, such as the urban runoff program. A summary of the specific revisions to the Basin Plan is provided in the Staff Report (Appendix B).

Given the non-regulatory content of this proposed amendment, the planning process is more streamlined than for other regulatory amendments, requiring only State Water Board approval before the changes become effective.

A public notice for this proposed amendment was issued on August 12, 2005 (Appendix C). The public comments were generally supportive and focused on editorial detail (Appendix D). Many comments were questions about the revised tables and figures of water bodies. Our responses provided in Appendix E point out the need for future Basin Plan amendment(s) that will propose regulatory changes to the beneficial use designations for surface water, groundwater, and wetlands.

**RECOMMEN-
DATION:**

Adopt the Tentative Resolution

APPENDICES:

- A. Tentative Resolution with Proposed Basin Plan Amendment showing changes (Exhibit A)
- B. Staff Report
- C. Public Notice
- D. Comments on Draft Amendment
- E. Response to Comments

File No 1591.10 (SMM)