

2003 Action Levels for Field Screening and Laboratory Analytical Parameters

<u>Field Screening Analytes</u>	<u>Action Levels¹</u>	<u>Source/ Notes</u>
pH	<6.5 or >9.0	Basin Plan, w/ allowance for elevated pH due to excessive photosynthesis. Elevated pH is especially problematic in combination with high ammonia
orthophosphate-P (mg/L)	2.0	USEPA Multi-sector General Permit
nitrate-N (mg/L)	10.0	Basin Plan, and drinking water standards
Ammonia-N (mg/L)	1.0	Based on Workgroup experience. May also consider unionized ammonia fraction
Turbidity (NTU)	Best Professional Judgment	WQOs relevant to inland surface waters are not available. Base judgment on channel type and bottom, time since last rain, background levels, and most importantly visual observation (e.g. unusual colors and lack of clarity), and unusual odors.
Temperature (°F or °C)	Best Professional Judgment	Base judgment on season, air temperature, channel type, shading, etc.
Conductivity (umhos/cm)	Best Professional Judgment	Values > 5,000 umhos/cm may indicate IC/ID however; EC may be highly elevated in some regions due to high-TDS groundwater exfiltration to surface water, mineral dissolution, drought, and seawater intrusion. Normal source ID and discharge elimination work is not effective in these situations. Knowledge of area background conditions is important. Values < 800 may indicate excessive potable water discharge or flushing.

<u>Laboratory Analytes</u>	<u>Action Levels</u>	<u>Source/ Notes</u>
MBAS (mg/L)	1.0	Basin Plan, w/ allowance based on Workgroup field experience and possible field reagent interferences
Oil and Grease (mg/L)	15	USEPA Multi-sector General Permit. If a petroleum sheen is observed, the sample should be collected from the water surface. Visual observations may justify immediate investigation.
Diazinon (ug/L)	0.5	Response to diazinon and chlorpyrifos levels above 0.5 ug/L should focus on education and outreach to potential dischargers in the target drainage basin.
Chlorpyrifos (ug/L)	0.5	Highly elevated levels should be investigated aggressively as with other potential IC/IDs.
Dissolved Cadmium	California Toxics Rule	Use California Toxics Rule Table, 1-hour criteria to determine appropriate action level for individual samples. Table provides benchmarks based on hardness and dissolved metals concentration. For example, at 300 mg/L hardness the following action levels would apply: Cd - 14 ppb; Cu - 38 ppb; Pb - 209 ppb; and Zn - 297 ppb.
Dissolved Copper	California Toxics Rule	
Dissolved Lead	California Toxics Rule	
Dissolved Zinc	California Toxics Rule	
Total Coliform (MPN/ 100 mls)	50,000	
Fecal Coliform (MPN/ 100 mls)	20,000	Action levels are based on upper 90% confidence level of Copermittees 2002 dry weather analytical monitoring data.
Enterococcus (MPN/ 100 mls)	10,000	

¹The referenced action levels should not be the sole criteria for initiating a source identification investigation. Dry weather monitoring data should be interpreted using a variety of available information including best professional judgment and within-site and between-site sample variability.