



project clean water

Basin Planning Issues Workgroup

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region 2003 Basin Plan Triennial Review Workshop Overview

Monday, March 3, 2003 the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) staff held a public workshop describing the triennial review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego region. During this workshop, RWQCB staff presented their Mission Statement, intent of Basin Plan, the legal requirements for the triennial review, the intent of the triennial review process itself, the triennial review process timeline, a list of potential ranking criteria for prioritizing the issues list and a Preliminary Draft Triennial Review Basin Plan Issues list. Following the RWQCB staff presentations, the public was invited to comment on Basin Planning issues and ask questions.

General points made by RWQCB staff were:

- The Triennial review process is not a Basin Plan Amendment
- The review is a list of projects. It is a work planning process in which potential changes are identified.
- Resources are very limited. The RWQCB has only 2 person years of time allocated to this process (this is a total of 6 person years for the three year timeframe between reviews).
- There is more work than there are resources, therefore, not all will get done and there is a need to effectively prioritize the issues.
- The preliminary issues list is not final it is only a draft.
- Public participation is very important.

Timeline for Public Participation in Developing the Triennial Review Basin Plan Issues List (Issues List):

January 31, 2003 – Public notice of intent to conduct Triennial Review of the San Diego Water Quality Control Plan.

March 3, 2003 – Public Informational Workshop on Triennial Review process including distribution of a Preliminary Draft Issues List.

March 14, 2003 – Close of Public Comment period on existing and addition issues to be considered by the Regional Board for the Issues List.

May 2003 - A draft of the prioritized Basin Plan Triennial review issues list will be released for public comment, opening second solicitation period.

May - June 2003 – Second Public Workshop to present and invite public comments on the ranking of the prioritized items on the draft issues list.

Summer 2003 – Public Hearing at Regional Board Meeting to hear comments on the draft prioritized Basin Plan Triennial review issues. This will end the public comment period on the Triennial Review Prioritized List of Issues.

Summer/Fall 2003 – Regional Board Members will consider adoption of tentative Basin Plan Issue List

* The Regional Board staff stressed that if you are interested in receiving further information on the Basin Plan Triennial Review that you must notify the RWQCB to be included on the mailing list.

Public Comments:

- Sierra Club commented on the need to clarify assimilative capacity, and requested a strategy on the Trans-border pollution issues.
- The Project Clean Water Basin Planning Issues Workgroup commented on the importance of a stakeholder driven, scientifically valid approach to the review process, a need for better integration of data sets, and the need for opportunities for stakeholders to partner with the RWQCB on grants to support data collection for continued improvement of the Basin Plan.
- Environmental Health Coalition commented on their concern about not relaxing the standards but wanting to ensure that the beneficial uses are protected. Also, they commented on their concern that dischargers do not drive the prioritization of issues for the triennial review.
- UCSD Urban Studies and Planning Program Faculty member Dr. Keith Pezzoli commented on efforts that are currently underway to develop a Regional Workbench that is 3D visualization tool for data. Dr. Pezzoli also commented on the need to collaborate on data collection and that the local academic resources can help strengthen the science of the Basin Plan.

During the Question and Answer period several questions were put to the Regional Board staff asking for more detail to issues on the preliminary draft list. A question was asked if comments could be submitted on issues already listed. Regional Board staff encouraged comments for both new issues and issues already on the list. The Regional Board staff also indicated that they are open to ideas and suggestion for criteria used to prioritize the Basin Plan Triennial Review Issues List.

The RWQCB presentation, electronic version of comment submittal form, mail list subscription instructions and forms, and the preliminary Draft triennial review Basin Plan Issue list can be viewed on their web page at:
http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9/programs/tri_review.html.