



# REGIONALSAN

TAKING THE WASTE OUT OF WATER

Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

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Sent via e-mail: [pmcomments@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:pmcomments@deltacouncil.ca.gov)

**Subject:** Delta Plan Performance Measures

Dear Council Members:

Regional San is requesting the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) consider alternate performance measure wording for WQ R8, Concentration of Pesticides, as listed on page 20 of Attachment 1, Agenda Item 11, for the December 17, 2015 Council meeting (Ref #6.21). Any performance measure for pesticides should be general in nature since water quality standards and TMDL development are under the purview of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control (Regional Water Board). Moreover, water quality standards specifically for pyrethroids have not yet been approved by the Regional Water Board. Therefore, we recommend the following wording for a pesticide water quality performance measure:

*Control measures be developed using the regulatory authorities of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Pesticide Regulation, and US Environmental Protection Agency for critical current use pesticides (i.e., diazinon, Pyrethroids and chlorpyrifos), and for unknown future pesticides, that cause adverse effects in the waters and sediments of the Delta. are met by 2020.*

The following reasons are provided to help understand why we are recommending alternate performance measure components, including targets for pyrethroids.

- The numeric values listed as targets are unapproved standards
- The targets are draft numeric values which peer reviewers criticized as being too conservative, because they were calculated using a percentage that is not normally used by the US EPA when calculating water quality criteria
- The concentrations listed were a staff calculation that have undergone peer review, but have not been subject to any formal public review and comment period, or subject to any formal adoption by any public agency.

The Regional Water Board is currently in the process of determining the appropriate regulatory approach for establishing numeric targets for a pyrethroid TMDL. Therefore, we recommend that until the Central Valley Water Board weighs in on the development of the pyrethroid TMDL that no numeric targets be included in the water quality performance measures for pesticides, and at a minimum the metric of the pesticide performance measure revert to the December 2015 version of “Progress in adopting and meeting TMDLs, for pesticides.” Adding the following language would provide a broader breadth of source control that is essential to ensuring that current and future pesticide use does not adversely affect water and sediment quality in the Delta.

“Progress in adopting and meeting TMDLs, *and using the regulatory authorities of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and US Environmental Protection Agency*, for *controlling* pesticides.”

Regional San commented extensively on water quality in the development of the Delta Plan, consistently stating that in the area of water quality the Delta Plan should avoid duplicating efforts of existing regulatory bodies.

Regional San has an additional comment on the performance measure wording for WQ-R8 regarding trends in measureable toxicity (Ref. # 6.25). The proposed wording for this performance measure now includes pharmaceuticals and personal care products, aquatic toxicity data does not exist for many of these compounds. We recommend removing pharmaceuticals and personal care products from the wording of this performance measure.

Lastly the metric for the new performance measure for WQ-R6, protect groundwater beneficial uses (Ref. # 6.28), includes only groundwater wells in the San Joaquin Valley. A more appropriate groundwater measure would apply to Delta groundwater.

Regional San appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft Staff performance measures. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Dorn, 916-876-6030, or [dornl@sacsewer.com](mailto:dornl@sacsewer.com).

Sincerely,



Environmental Program Manager

cc: Christoph Dobson, Director of Policy and Planning  
Terrie Mitchell, Manager Legislative and Regulatory Affairs  
Lisa Thompson, Chief Scientist  
Tim Mussen, Scientist