



# Update on the Proposed Bacteria Provisions

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# Outline

- ▶ Background on the regulations and the timeline of the proposed Bacteria Provisions
- ▶ Objectives of the Bacteria Provisions
- ▶ Changes to marine and estuarine waters
- ▶ Current Regulations
- ▶ Proposed Changes
- ▶ Affects on Basin Plans

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# Objectives of the Provisions

- ▶ Focus on the risk of illness for water contact recreation uses
- ▶ Create consistency between regions
- ▶ Avoid the need for Basin Plan Amendments



# Current Regulations

## ► 30-day Geometric Mean (GM)

- 1) Total coliform density shall not exceed 1,000 per 100 mL;
- 2) Fecal coliform density shall not exceed 200 per 100 mL; and
- 3) Enterococci density shall not exceed 35 per 100 mL.

## ► Single sample maximum (SSM)

- 1) Total coliform density shall not exceed 10,000 per 100 mL;
- 2) Fecal coliform density shall not exceed 400 per 100 mL;
- 3) Enterococci density shall not exceed 104 per 100 mL; and
- 4) Total coliform density shall not exceed 1,000 per 100 mL when the fecal coliform/total coliform ratio exceeds 0.1.



# Proposed Changes

- ▶ Based on USEPA's 2012 Recreational Water Quality Criteria
- ▶ Use of E. coli only for freshwaters
- ▶ Implement a 6-week rolling GM instead of 30 days
- ▶ Use a Statistical Threshold Value (STV) instead of a SSM
- ▶ New definition of Limited REC-1 beneficial use
- ▶ Allowance of Natural Source Exclusion and a reference beach, Antidegradation Approach

# Proposed Water Quality Objectives

Estimated Illness Rate (NGI): 32 per 1,000 primary contact recreators

Indicator	GM (cfu/100 mL)	STV (cfu/100 mL)
Enterococci (for marine and fresh)	30	110
<i>E. coli</i> (fresh)	100	320



# Effects on Basin Plans

- ▶ The new provisions will supersede any numeric water quality objectives (WQO's) in the Basin Plans(except for site-specific numeric WQO's) for the protection of the REC-1 use.
- ▶ The Provisions will not supersede narrative WQO's in the Basin Plans
- ▶ Bacteria WQOs will be implemented, through NPDES permits, water quality certifications, waste discharge requirements, and waivers of waste discharge requirements



## Next Steps

- ▶ The State Water Board will be considering the adoption of the Bacteria Provisions on February 6, 2018
  - ▶ If adopted, we will submit the required package of information to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL)
  - ▶ OAL has 30 working days to approve or deny
  - ▶ If OAL approves the provisions, they will be submitted to the USEPA for approval



# Availability and Questions

- ▶ Documents available at:  
<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bacterialobjectives/>
- ▶ Webcast information for the February 6 SWRCB meeting:  
<https://video.calepa.ca.gov/>
- ▶ Please direct questions...
- ▶ Regarding the marine environment to Karen Black at (916) 341- 6899 or [Karen.Black@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Karen.Black@waterboards.ca.gov)
- ▶ Regarding freshwaters to Stephanie Rose at (916) 341- 5574 or [Stephanie.Rose@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Rose@waterboards.ca.gov)