



Update on the Proposed Bacteria Provisions

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February 21, 2018

Beach Water Quality Workgroup



Outline

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



Objectives of the Provisions

- ▶ Intended to protect human health by reducing the risk of illness associated with exposure to water containing fecal bacteria
- ▶ Create consistency between regions
- ▶ Many of the provisions being addressed do not have a Statewide objective
- ▶ Avoid the need for Basin Plan Amendments
- ▶ Align our objectives with the USEPA recommendations



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 (with a TMDL)

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

- ▶ Except for site-specific objectives, the proposed Provisions...
- ▶ Will supersede numeric water quality objectives
- ▶ Will not supersede narrative water quality objectives
- ▶ Will be implemented, through NPDES permits, water quality certifications, waste discharge requirements, and waivers of waste discharge requirements

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Next Steps

- ▶ The State Water Board adoption has been postponed
- ▶ Currently, no date has been set for an adoption
- ▶ If you would like to receive updates on the Bacteria Provisions, make sure you are on the Lyris list



Availability and Questions

- Documents available at:
<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bacterialobjectives/>
- Please direct questions...
- Regarding the marine environment to Karen Black at (916) 341- 6899 or Karen.Black@waterboards.ca.gov
- Regarding freshwaters to Stephanie Rose at (916) 341- 5574 or Stephanie.Rose@waterboards.ca.gov