



# 2019 Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California

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# Ocean Plan Background



- The Ocean Plan was first adopted in 1972 and most recently amended in February 2019
- Beneficial Uses, Water Quality Objectives, and Program of Implementation
- The State Water Board adopted amendments to the Ocean Plan that address seven high and very high ranking issues identified in the 2011 Ocean Plan Review



# Amendments Since 2011 Ocean Plan Review

Amendment	Year Adopted	2011 Ocean Plan Review
State Water Quality Protected Areas and Marine Protected Areas	2012	Issue 1
Model Monitoring, Vessel Discharges, and Non-Substantive Changes	2012	Issues 2, 3, 25
Trash	2015	Issue 4
Desalination	2015	Issue 8
Bacteria Objectives	2018	Issue 17
Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharge of Dredged or Fill Material	2019	N/A

# 2019 Ocean Plan Review

- Required by the Clean Water Act and California Water Code
- Purpose of the Review:
  - Identify, evaluate, and rank issues to ensure continued adequacy of the Ocean Plan
  - Provided opportunity for input on the Ocean Plan
- Resulted in Staff Report and Work Plan





# 2019 Ocean Plan Review Timeline

2019

2020

- **Outreach**

December 2018 – March 2019

- **Scoping Meetings**

January 8, 2019 – San Luis Obispo

January 14, 2019 – Costa Mesa

January 16, 2019 – Sacramento

February 6, 2019 – Lakeport

- **Preparation of Draft Staff Report and Work Plan**

March – June 2019

- **Release of Draft Staff Report and Work Plan**

June 24, 2019

# 2019 Ocean Plan Review Timeline Continued

2019

2020

- **Formal Written Comment Period**

June 24 – August 8, 2019

- **Staff Public Workshop and Tribal-Focused Workshop**

July 12, 2019

- **Response to Comments**

August 8 – October 18, 2019

- **Release Proposed Final Staff Report and Work Plan**

October 18, 2019

- **State Water Board Public Hearing and Consideration for Adoption**

December 3, 2019

- **Transmission to U.S. EPA**

Early 2020



# Issue Identification and Evaluation

- 22 Issues Identified:
  - 4 Very High Ranking
  - 8 High Ranking
  - 10 Medium or Low Ranking
- Issue Evaluation and Rankings:
  - Do not reflect the level of importance of each issue
  - Tool for focusing limited resources





# Issue Evaluation Criteria

**Group 1 Criteria:** Water Quality, Customer Service, and Consistency Values (*30 pts. total*)

- Potential for Improving Conditions Consistent with the Water Boards' Mission (*15 pts.*)
- Providing Improved Customer Service (*5 pts.*)
- Aligning Statewide Needs (*10 pts.*)

**Group 2 Criteria:** Potential for Success (*20 pts. total*)

- Resources Already Invested (*5 pts.*)
- Resources Likely Available (*5 pts.*)
- Potential for Completion (*10 pts.*)



# Issues Identified and Ranked

## **Very High Ranking Issues:**

- Tribal Beneficial Uses
- Bacteria Objectives for Water Contact Recreation
- Exceptions to the Ocean Plan for Discharges into Areas of Special Biological Significance
- Desalination Implementation Provisions

## **High Ranking Issues:**

- Ocean Acidification, Hypoxia, and Climate Change Impacts
- Shellfish Harvesting Beneficial Uses and Water Quality Objectives
- Microplastics and Microfibers
- Toxicity Water Quality Objectives
- Nutrients and Objectionable Aquatic Growth Water Quality Objectives
- Non-Substantive Administrative Changes
- Exception for San Francisco Stormwater & Wastewater Discharges
- Natural Source Exclusion

# Issues Identified and Ranked Continued

## **Medium Ranking Issues:**

- Contaminants of Emerging Concern Monitoring Procedures
- Review of WQOs
- Suspended Solids Effluent Limitations
- Expression of WQOs for Metals
- Expand Waste Definition to Include Potential Discharges
- WQOs for Dioxin and Related Compounds
- Sediment Quality Objectives
- Mixing Zone and Dilution Implementation Provisions

## **Low Ranking Issues:**

- Background Seawater Concentrations for Effluent Limitation Calculations
- Vessel Discharges and Invasive Species



## Very High and High Ranking Issues

ID	Issue Name	Points	Ranking
T	<b>Tribal Beneficial Uses</b>	48	Very High
N	<b>Bacteria Objectives for Water Contact Recreation</b>	47	Very High
I	<b>Exceptions to Ocean Plan for Discharges into ASBSs</b>	46	Very High
O	<b>Desalination Implementation Provisions</b>	46	Very High
F	<b>Ocean Acidification, Hypoxia, &amp; Climate Change Impacts</b>	45	High
H	<b>Shellfish Harvesting Beneficial Uses &amp; WQ Objectives</b>	44	High
U	<b>Microplastics and Microfibers</b>	44	High
G	<b>Toxicity Water Quality Objectives</b>	42	High
J	<b>Nutrients &amp; Objectionable Aquatic Growth WQ Objectives</b>	40	High
Q	<b>Non-Substantive Administrative Changes</b>	40	High
V	<b>Exception for SF Stormwater &amp; Wastewater Discharges</b>	40	High
S	<b>Natural Source Exclusion</b>	39	High

# Thank you!

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Ocean Plan Webpage](#)

