BACTERIA PROVISIONS &VARIANCE POLICY

Part 3 of the
Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California

Amendment to the
Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California

TMDL Roundtable Presentation
October 18, 2018

Components of the Provisions

- Beneficial use definition for Limited Water Contact Recreation (LREC-1)
- Bacteria water quality objectives for fresh and saline waters
- Bacteria implementation approaches
- Water Quality Standards Variance Policy

Limited Water Contact Recreation (LREC-1) Beneficial Use Definition

"Uses of water that support limited recreational activities involving body contact with water, where activities are predominantly ***limited by physical conditions*** *and, as a result,* ***body contact with water and ingestion of water is infrequent or insignificant.****"*

- Only applicable to ISWEBE waters
- No proposed designations

Bacteria Objective Background

- U.S. EPA 2012 recommended criteria for recreation (REC-1)
- Basin Plans and Ocean Plan inconsistent
- Proposed Bacteria Provisions:
  - Based on U.S. EPA's 2012 recommendations
  - Utilize best available science
  - Consistent objectives and implementation approaches

Bacteria Water Quality Objectives: Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries (ISWEBE)

Applicable Waters	Objective Elements	Estimated Illness Rate (NGI): 32/1,000	
		Magnitude	
	Indicator	6-week GM	STV
All waters where the salinity is equal to or less than 1 ppth 95 percent or more of the time	*E. coli*	100cfu/100mL	320cfu/100mL
All waters where the salinity is greater than 1 ppth more than 5 percent of the time	Enterococci	30cfu/100mL	110cfu/100mL

- Geometric Mean (GM)
  - Calculated every six-weeks
  - Rolling
- Statistical Threshold Value (STV)
  - Calculated every calendar month
  - Static
  - Shall not be exceeded by more than 10 percent of samples collected
- Colony Forming Units (CFU)
- National Epidemiological and Environmental Assessment of Recreational Water Gastrointestinal Illness (NGI) Illness Rate
  - 32 illnesses per 1,000 Recreators

Bacteria Water Quality Objectives: Ocean Plan

Enterococci

Indicator	Estimated Illness Rate (NGI): 32/1,000 Magnitude	
	6-week GM	STV
Enterococci	30cfu/100mL	110cfu/100mL

Geometric Mean (GM)
- Calculated every six-weeks
- Rolling

Statistical Threshold Value (STV)
- Calculated every calendar month
- Static
- Shall not be exceeded by more than 10 percent of samples collected

NGI: 32 illnesses per 1,000 Recreators

Fecal Coliform

Indicator	Magnitude	
	30-day GM	SSM
Fecal Coliform	200/100mL	400/100mL

Geometric Mean
- Calculated every 30-days

Single Sample Maximum
- The maximum value not to be exceeded in any single sample

REC-1 Bacteria Objectives

- Supersedes numeric REC-1 basin plan bacteria objectives
- Do not supersede narrative and site-specific objectives
- Existing TMDLs for bacteria remain in effect

Implementation Approaches

- ISWEBE and Ocean Plan
  - Reference system/antidegradation
  - Natural source exclusion
- ISWEBE Plan:
  - Temporary high-flow suspension of REC-1
  - Seasonal suspension of REC-1
  - Provisions for designation of Limited Water Contact Recreation (LREC-1)
- Not requirements: implemented through basin planning actions

Water Quality Standards Variance Policy

- A variance is a temporary change in a standard (typically an objective) for a specific pollutant, allowing deviation from meeting a water quality-based effluent limit (WQBEL) for a particular discharger.
- The Provisions identify the U.S. EPA's 2015 federal variance rule
- Does not add to or limit
- Explains existing state law

Timeline

- **2014 - 2017:** Focus group meetings and scoping
- **July 2017:** Staff Workshop
- **August 2017:** State Water Board public hearing
- **January 2018:** Draft documents distributed
- **July 2018:** Revised draft documents distributed
- **August 7, 2018:** Board adoption
- Pending: Administrative Record compilation