

ITEM: 19

SUBJECT: Determination of Required Effluent Limitations and Consideration of Mixing Zones for NPDES Permits

REPORT: ***Determination of Required Effluent Limitations***  
NPDES Permits regulate municipal and industrial point source discharges of pollutants to surface waters. Federal Regulations require, at minimum, technology-based effluent limitations, and more stringent water quality-based effluent limits necessary to meet applicable water quality standards. This information focuses on the implementation of water quality-based effluent limits.

*A Reasonable Potential Analysis (RPA)* is conducted, on a pollutant-by-pollutant basis, to determine if water quality-based effluent limitations are necessary to protect the beneficial uses of the receiving surface water. The RPA takes in account numeric and narrative water quality objectives established in our Basin Plan to protect beneficial uses. If a numeric water quality objective for a specific constituent is not established, accepted guidance documents, such as USEPA's National Ambient Water Quality Criteria, are used to interpret the Basin Plan's Narrative Toxicity Objective and/or Chemical Constituents Objective.

This Information Item will present an overview of the Policies and Guidance documents that are considered when determining whether water quality-based effluent limitations are needed, and other information used to establish the limits.

***Dilution and Mixing Zones***

If the receiving surface water flow provides assimilative capacity and dilution, and the Discharger has the option to provide a Dilution/Mixing Zone study that is acceptable to the Central Valley Water Board. The Board may consider the granting of dilution in the development of water quality-based effluent limits. This information Item will present the major factors considered in granting or denying mixing zones, and the applicable policies and guidance documents used to evaluate a proposed mixing zone that protects beneficial uses and concurrently allows regulatory relief to dischargers.

RECOMMENDATION: No action required, information item only.

Mgmt. Review \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Review \_\_\_\_\_

2/3 August 2012  
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