

Comments on the Water Quality Control Plan for the Basin Plan Amendment for lower Salinas River TMDL's, (Resolution No. R3-2013-0008) October 13, 2013

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I really appreciate that you are taking action in setting TMDL's.

I did not comment before because I was not aware of Resolution No. R3-2013-0008 and the earlier comment period.

I have trouble with TMDL's being voluntary and with your allowing 30 years before targets will be reached.

That clearly does not take care of the public.

Our children are already over-exposed to carcinogens and endocrine disruptors.

(<http://www.ehjournal.net/content/pdf/1476-069X-11-83.pdf>)

These TMDL's should be implemented now. How will you encourage their rapid implementation?

In 2012 the Marina Waste Water Treatment Plant mixed their tertiary treated water with raw lower Salinas River water treated only for pathogens and piped the mix for agricultural use. How was this allowed? Will this be allowed again when by your Board's own criteria the lower Salinas River water is too contaminated for beneficial uses?

Your report sounded like it was really the fact that the contaminants were damaging some crops that motivated the TMDL's. Aquatic life and human health are not afterthoughts. I can understand the history and the reality of strong pulls from large land owners and agribusiness. But we are looking at earth's limits in many areas and we have reached a limit. We cannot tolerate more chemical contamination in our food. We are already damaging many children's ability to reproduce, produce healthy offspring, learn ably and avoid cancer and disabling neurological conditions.

Everyone knows we don't reproduce as fast as micro-organisms. Even GE crops specially bred to handle heavy sprays of pesticides are finding the weeds out-evolve them. Instead, we need to learn about the organisms that help us in our gardens, and agriculture, as in our bodies. Our children are better off eating fewer organic strawberries, for example, and water from organic agriculture runoff does not contain the POPS and can be reused for beneficial purposes and does not contaminate our aquifers.

Since the completion of the human genome project over 6,000,000 single gene site mutations have been found that affect processing of contaminants and susceptibility to different diseases and conditions. What a terrible shame it will be if by the time science understands, we have already polluted our soil, water and aquifers beyond our children's ability to be healthy and productive!

Please set a short timeline for the TMDL's and make them mandatory. Please ask the State for the research and resources to help in transitioning agricultural production efficiently to safe methods that protect water, land, aquifers, people, wildlife and aquatic life for the long haul and make full use of beneficial organisms.

Thank you for your efforts and service on our Water Board.

Sincerely,
Jacquelyn K Griffith