

# STANDARDS, PLANNING & ASSESSMENT ACTIONS

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WATER QUALITY STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT SECTION

# Standards and Planning Actions

- Nutrient Objectives
  - Narrative Objective to protect against Eutrophication
  - Default Numeric Thresholds for N & P
  - Use indicators of eutrophication as primary assessment
  - Developing Biological Condition Gradients for both Algae and Benthic Macro Invertebrates
  - Could use HABs as an indicator

# Water Quality Standards

- No Water Quality Objectives for cyano-toxins
- Narrative Objectives for “No Toxics in Toxic Amounts” can be used
- Narrative Bio-stimulatory Substances Objective may be used to regulate underlying causes of blooms
- Numeric Objectives for cyano-toxins could be developed
- Narrative Objectives for cyano-toxins and/or blooms could be developed

# Water Quality Assessment – Impairment determination

- Can assess for impairment without numeric objectives
  - Use Narratives and peer reviewed “guidelines” for toxins
    - World Health Organization
    - OEHHA
    - CWA 304(a) recommended criteria
  - Use Weight of Evidence approach for blooms
    - Cell count recommendations
    - Visual/photographic evidence
    - Satellite Imagery????

# Current Impaired Waters Listings

- North Coast Water Board
  - Copco Lake
  - Iron Gate Reservoir
  - Kamath River (4 segments)
- Central Coast Water Board
  - Pinto Lake
- Other Regions have listings for nutrients or eutrophication.

# Current Assessments

- No statewide guidance has been developed
- Central Coast looking at OEEHA guidelines
  - Human Health
  - Recreation
  - Wildlife
- An area ripe for development of listing guidance

# Current Activities

- DWQ is participating in Interagency CCHAB Workgroup
  - Work to develop uniform signage
  - Develop appropriate thresholds for posting
  - Update “Draft Voluntary Guidance”

# Possible Future Activities

- Develop assessment procedures for the Integrated Report
- Develop Water Quality Objectives for cyano-toxins
- Include Harmful Algal Blooms in Nutrient Objectives and Program of Implementation
- Other?

Questions?