

10/1/96

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Phase II - Ecosystem  
Salinity

The CALFED Ecosystem Water Quality Technical Sub-team has defined a parameter to be of concern to ecosystem water quality providing that:

1. Reliable<sup>1</sup> data on the parameter shows:
  - concentrations exceed established criteria for the applicable medium (e.g. water, sediment, or tissue) and;
  - the exceedances are of a frequency, duration or magnitude that, in the best judgment of the ecosystem water quality sub-team, may likely result in adverse impacts to biota inhabiting or using the Delta aquatic ecosystem.
  
2. Criteria<sup>2</sup> used to determine exceedances will be based on one or more of the following, as appropriate:
  - Central Valley or San Francisco Bay Water Quality Control Plan objectives (including narrative objectives), US Environmental Protection Agency water quality criteria, or CA Department of Fish and Game hazard assessment criteria;
  - ~~California Department of Health Services Maximum Contaminant Levels;~~
  - ~~California Department of Health Services Public Health Advisories;~~
  - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration sediment guidelines and US EPA sediment quality criteria;
  - National Academy of Science guidelines;
  - Inland Surface Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries plans (if adopted for California);
  - Other criteria developed by regulatory bodies in response to local water quality problems (i.e. US EPA Great Lakes standards, Se standards in San Francisco Bay).
  
3. Chronic or acute toxicity in bioassays is attributable to a parameter based on a toxic identification evaluation (TIE).
  
4. Research/special studies provide evidence of behavioral, physiological, or reproductive impacts associated with a "parameter".
  
5. A problem is generally recognized by the resource and regulatory agencies.

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<sup>1</sup> Reliable defined as data that; has been collected and reported with reasonable adherence to QA/QC procedures; has been published in a peer reviewed source; or is reliable based on the judgment of the Ecosystem Water Quality Technical Team.

<sup>2</sup> Application of criteria should be on a location specific basis as not all resources are equally distributed throughout the system . Criteria change depending on location specific biotic uses and water quality parameters (e.g., hardness, pH ).