Pesticide Water Quality Criteria Development for the Protection of Aquatic Life

The Central Valley Water Board has contracted with UC-Davis to develop five pesticide water quality criteria by April 2017. For background information on the development and potential use of water quality criteria and the relationship between water quality criteria and water quality objectives please see staff's 2009 letter entitled Pesticide Water Quality Criteria Derivation for the Protection of Aquatic Life in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins.

In 2009 UC-Davis developed a methodology for deriving pesticide water quality criteria for the protection of aquatic life (Phase II report). The methodology is mainly based on the USEPA guidelines, with updates based on the best practices identified in a literature review of criteria derivation methods used around the world (Phase I report). Since 2009, water quality criteria have been derived for nine pesticides using the UC-Davis methodology (Phase III reports). All of the documents related to the method development and water quality criteria reports are available on the Water Quality Criteria Method website. Currently, UC-Davis is deriving water quality criteria for the five pesticides listed below.

Four of the pesticides under criteria development are herbicides that are indicated on the 303(d) list for impairing water bodies in the Central Valley region (oxyfluorfen, prometryn, simazine, trifluralin). Staff are not currently developing control programs for any of these four herbicides. These criteria may be used to assess monitoring data and provide information on whether these herbicides are priorities for developing control programs or if the impairments may be addressed through other means.

Fipronil is an insecticide that has not been identified on the 303(d) list of impaired waters, but monitoring data indicate that there is a risk of impairments in urban watersheds. Staff is not currently developing a specific control program for fipronil. Fipronil water quality criteria may be used to assess monitoring data and provide information on the environmental fate of this compound.

For continued updates on this project please subscribe on-line to our Central Valley Pesticide TMDL and Basin Plan Amendment electronic mailing list. Updates and documents will be posted on the Water Quality Criteria Method website. For additional information, please contact Tessa Fojut at Tessa.Fojut@waterboards.ca.gov or Danny McClure at Daniel.Mcclure@waterboards.ca.gov.

Tentative Criteria Development Schedule

The tentative schedule for water quality criteria development and public outreach and input is shown in the table below. The draft water quality criteria reports will be posted for public viewing prior to peer review so that the public may submit informal comments on which scientific topics and conclusions should be highlighted in the request for peer review. The public will have approximately 90 days to view the draft reports before comments are due. When the contract is finalized, the final reports including the peer review and public comments and the responses to all comments will be posted.

Action	**Tentative Schedule**
Briefly discuss project at Pyrethroid Stakeholder meeting	1 June 2016
Herbicides Criteria	
Four draft herbicide reports (oxyfluorfen, prometryn, simazine, trifluralin) posted for public review	1 June 2016
Informal comments on peer review topics due for four herbicide reports	30 June 2016
Send four herbicide reports for peer review	1 August 2016
Public comments due for four herbicide reports	1 September 2016
Fipronil Criteria	
Draft fipronil report posted for public review	1 August 2016
Informal comments on peer review topics due for fipronil report	31 August 2016
Send fipronil report for peer review	30 September 2016
Public comments due for fipronil report	1 November 2016
Final reports posted with peer reviews, public comments, and responses	April 2017