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## Statewide Mercury Program

### ADDRESSING MERCURY IN CALIFORNIA'S WATERS



Mercury is negatively impacting the beneficial uses of many waters of the state by making fish unsafe for human and wildlife consumption. Although mercury occurs naturally in the environment, concentrations of mercury exceed background levels because of human activities. Gold and mercury mines and atmospheric deposition are the predominate sources of mercury, with minor contributions from industrial and municipal wastewater discharges and urban run-off.

State and Regional Water Board staff is developing a statewide water quality control program for mercury (statewide mercury program or program) that will include: 1) mercury control program for reservoirs; and 2) mercury water quality objectives.

The [timeline](#), below, has links to additional information for both parts of this program.

#### SUBSCRIBE TO UPDATES



Receive information by email about the Statewide Fish Tissue Objectives Project and/or the Statewide Mercury Control Program for Reservoirs. [Subscribe online](#) to:

- Mercury - Objectives Policy
- Mercury - Statewide Control Program for Reservoirs  
(\* located alphabetically under the WATER QUALITY TOPICS)

#### Statewide Mercury Control Program for Reservoirs

The Statewide Mercury Control Program for Reservoirs will address the 74 currently identified [mercury-impaired reservoirs](#) as well as other reservoirs that are identified as mercury-impaired in the future.

- **NEW!** [Appendix A: Importance of Primary and Secondary Production in Controlling Fish Tissue Mercury Concentrations](#) will be appended to the Statewide Mercury Control Program for Reservoirs technical staff report, currently under development. *Appendix A* describes the scientific basis of the mercury conceptual model and linkage analysis, which will be fully described in the technical staff report. *Appendix A* will be submitted to formal scientific peer review together with the technical staff report.
- **NEW!** For more information on mercury sources in California, an explanation of how mercury accumulates in the food chain, and an analysis of factors affecting methylmercury accumulation in reservoir fish, refer to our [Fact Sheet](#) (2013 Fact Sheet).

For more information about the reservoir program, please email [MercuryProject@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:MercuryProject@waterboards.ca.gov), or [Carrie Austin](#), or phone (510) 622-1015.

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#### Statewide Mercury Water Quality Objectives

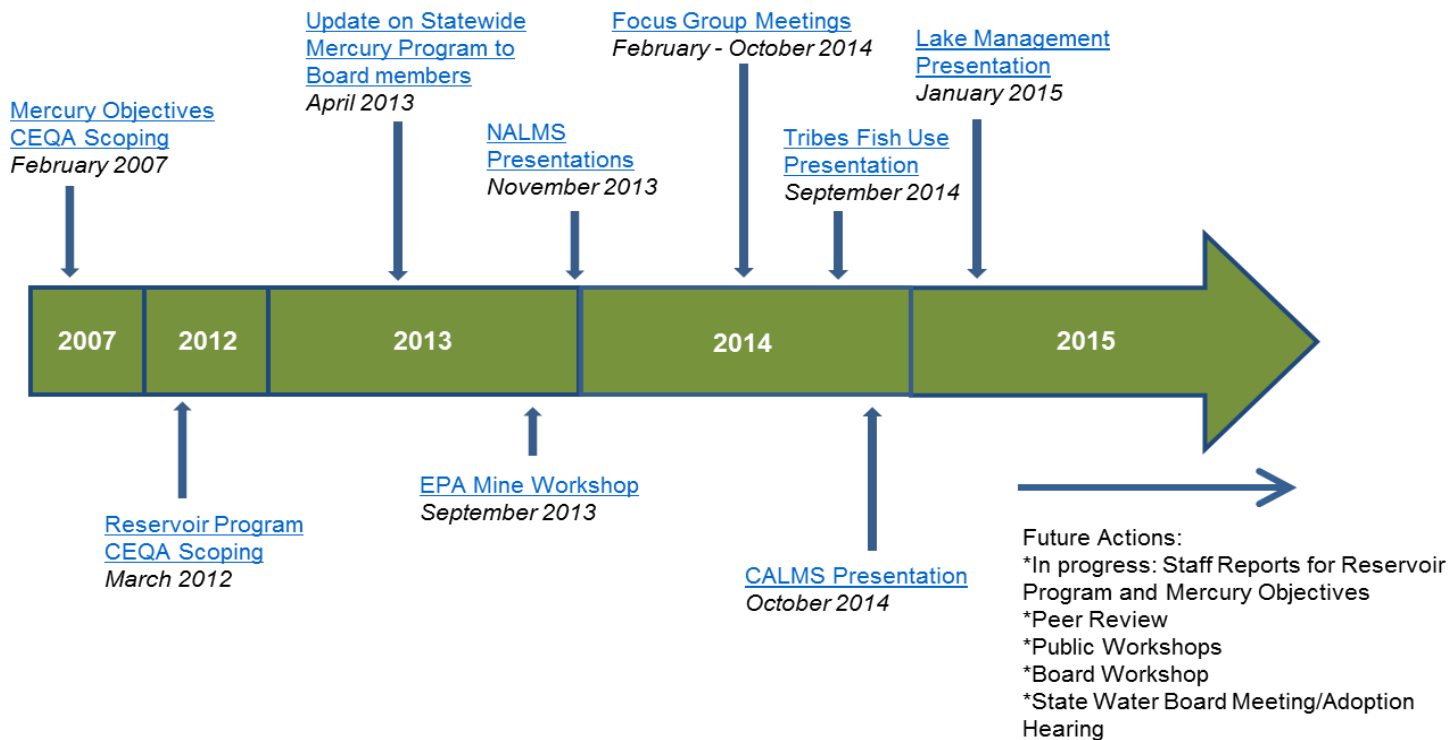
The State Water Board is developing water quality objectives to protect humans and wildlife that consume locally caught fish. The objectives will likely be expressed as a methylmercury concentration in fish tissue. These objectives will inform mercury policy, mercury pollution prevention plans, and water quality permits. They will apply to California's inland surface waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries.

For more information about the fish methylmercury objectives, please email [MercuryProject@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:MercuryProject@waterboards.ca.gov), or contact [Amanda Palumbo](#) at (916) 341-5687.

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#### Timeline

This timeline shows the development of the Statewide Mercury Program. The presentation materials from the listed events, including the CEQA scoping documents and comment letters, are available for your review.



**Other Mercury Related Programs**

- [Total Maximum Daily Loads for Mercury in California Waters](#)
- [Fish Consumption Advisories and Other State Programs to Address Mercury](#)

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