

**Agenda Items: 15-17** **Request Approval of 2016 303(d) Listing Methodology**

**Explanation:**

Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires states to submit a list of waters that do not meet water quality standards to EPA for approval by April 1 of even-numbered years. The EMC on March 14, 2013 approved the 303(d) Listing Methodology that was used for the 2014 303(d) List. The 2014 303(d) List was subsequently prepared by DWR, submitted to US EPA and approved. There is a subset of waters on the 2014 303(d) List on which the State and the US EPA disagree with regard to the appropriateness of including those waters on the 303(d) List. They are listed based upon water quality standards that are outdated. The State has adopted new, revised standards and is pursuing assessment of waters using the new, revised water quality standards. Staff is returning to the EMC today to seek the EMC's approval to apply in 2016 the listing methodology that was used in 2014, with minor modifications to reflect that the State has adopted new, revised water quality standards.

**Recommendation:**

DWR staff recommends approval of the proposed 2016 303(d) Listing Methodology with slight modifications from 2014.