

MPCA Proposed Class 3 and 4 Rule Changes – WaterLegacy Summary

REMOVAL OF NUMERIC WATER QUALITY STANDARDS (WQS)			
Complete Deregulation - No Other Standard			
Existing Rule Class	Parameter	Existing WQS	Effect of Rule
Class 3A	Hardness (Ca + Mg)	50 mg/L	No Standard
Class 3B	Hardness (Ca + Mg)	250 mg/L	No Standard
Class 3C	Hardness (Ca + Mg)	500 mg/L	No Standard
Class 4A	Bicarbonates	5 millieq/L	No Standard
Class 4A	Conductivity	1,000 µS/cm	No Standard
Class 4A	Sodium	60% ions millieq/L	No Standard

REMOVAL OF NUMERIC WATER QUALITY STANDARDS (WQS)				
Less Water Quality Protection - Weaker Standards				
Existing Rule Class	Parameter	Existing WQS	Would Apply	Effect of Rule
Class 3A	Chloride	50 mg/L	230 mg/L	Weaker Standard
Class 3B	Chloride	100 mg/L	230 mg/L	Weaker Standard
Class 3A	pH (alkalinity)	8.5	9	Weaker Standard
Class 4A	pH (alkalinity)	8.5	9	Weaker Standard
Class 4A	Total Dissolved Solids	700 mg/L	3,000 mg/L	Weaker Standard
Class 4B	Salinity	1,000 mg/L	3,000 mg/L	Weaker Standard

Existing Class	Existing Use of Water	Proposed Change	Removal of Use
Class 3A	"use without chemical treatment, except softening for groundwater, for most industrial purposes. . for which a high quality of water is required"	"use for industrial purposes to avoid severe fouling, corrosion, or scaling."	Removes industrial uses without chemical treatment other than softening for groundwater. Removes uses requiring high quality water.
Class 3B	"use for general industrial purposes . . . with only a moderate degree of treatment"	"use for industrial purposes to avoid severe fouling, corrosion, or scaling."	Removes general industrial uses with only moderate degree of treatment.
Class 3C	"use for industrial cooling and materials transport without a high degree of treatment being necessary to avoid severe fouling, corrosion, scaling, or other unsatisfactory conditions"	"use for industrial purposes to avoid severe fouling, corrosion, or scaling."	Removes industrial use without a high degree of treatment being necessary to avoid severe fouling, corrosion, scaling or unsatisfactory conditions.
Class 4A	"crops or vegetation usually grown in the waters or area, including truck garden crops"	Delete "including truck garden crops"	Removes use for truck garden crops.
Class 4B	"use by . . wildlife without inhibition or injurious effects"	Limits with the phrase "for watering"	Removes use of waters or wetlands by wildlife other than for "watering"