

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

GLOSSARY

Reconsideration of the Dominguez Channel and Greater Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbor Waters Toxic Pollutants Total Maximum Daily Load

California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA): CalEPA is a state agency with a mission to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality. CalEPA fulfills this mission by regulating air, water and soil quality, pesticide use and waste recycling and reduction. CalEPA comprises six boards, departments and offices, including the California Water Boards.

California Water Boards:

The California Water Boards include the State Water Resources Control Board and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards.

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board): The State Water Board is a state agency protecting water quality by setting statewide policy, supporting Regional Water Boards, and reviewing petitions that contest Regional Board actions. The California Water Boards implement the federal Clean Water Act among other federal and state environmental and water quality related laws in California.

Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards): The Regional Water Boards provide local implementation of statewide policy and regulations, set water quality standards for their respective region, issue waste discharge requirements, and determine compliance with and enforce those requirements. There are nine Regional Water Boards, each with seven appointed Board members. The Los Angeles Regional Water Board covers most of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties along with small parts of Kern and Santa Barbara Counties.

Basin Plan: Also called a “water quality control plan,” the Basin Plan is the central regulatory document for a Water Board region. The Basin Plan: (1) designates beneficial uses of all surface and ground waters in a region; (2) sets water quality objectives that must be met or maintained to protect those uses; and (3) describes implementation programs to protect all waters in the region. It incorporates (by reference) all applicable plans, and water quality policies and regulations.

Beneficial Uses of Water: Beneficial uses form the cornerstone of water quality protection under a Basin Plan. Together with numerical water quality objectives, they make up the water quality standards for all surface waterbodies and groundwater basins. Beneficial Uses of water include domestic, municipal, agricultural, industrial supply, power generation, recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, navigation, preservation of fish and wildlife, and other aquatic uses.

Implementation Plan: An Implementation Plan details pollution prevention, control, and restoration actions, responsible parties; and schedules necessary to attain water quality standards. Identifies enforceable measures (e.g. prohibition) and triggers for Regional Board action (e.g., performance standards).

Linkage Analysis: A Linkage Analysis describes the relationship between the target desired condition of the water body in order to protect beneficial uses and the sources of pollutants, and estimates the ability of the water body to assimilate the pollutant.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL): TMDLs are action plans to restore clean water. Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires that states identify water bodies - bays, rivers, streams, creeks, and coastal areas -- that do not meet water quality standards, and the pollutants that impair them and also requires that the state develop a TMDL to address the pollution. TMDLs examine water quality problems, identify sources of pollutants, develop a linkage analysis, and develop an implementation plan that specifies the actions that create solutions. They are adopted by the Regional Water Board as amendments to the Region's Basin Plan.

Sediment Quality Provisions (SQPs): The Sediment Quality Provisions specify California's methods of determining if aquatic sediments are polluted. SQPs integrate chemical and biological measures to determine if the animal and plant life dependent on sediment is protected or degraded as a result of exposure to toxic pollutants in sediment. The Sediment Quality Provisions include sediment quality objectives (SQOs) for the protection of aquatic life, human health, wildlife and resident fish, identification of the beneficial uses that these SQOs are intended to protect, and an implementation plan for each SQO.

Water Quality Objectives/Sediment Quality Objectives (SQOs): Water/sediment quality objectives are the allowable limits or levels of water/sediment constituents which are established (i) to protect the public health and welfare and (ii) to maintain or enhance water quality in relation to the beneficial uses of the water.

Benthic community: The term benthic community refers to the animals and plants that live on or in the bottom of a body of water.