

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Date: December 20, 2019

To: Interested Persons



From: Dr. LB Nye
Section Chief, Regional Programs

Subject: NOTICE OF 2020-22 TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF WATER QUALITY STANDARDS IN THE LOS ANGELES REGION

This notice is to inform interested persons that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board) is commencing its 2020-22 triennial review of water quality standards.

Section 13240 of the California Water Code directs the Los Angeles Water Boards to periodically review their regional water quality control plans (also known as basin plans), while section 303(c)(1) of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to review and, as appropriate, modify and adopt water quality standards applicable to waters of the U.S. In federal terminology, this review of water quality standards is known as the “triennial review,” consistent with the federal requirement that the review is conducted on a three-year cycle.

Basin plans are designed to preserve and enhance water quality and protect the beneficial uses of regional surface and ground waters. Specifically, basin plans designate beneficial uses for surface and ground waters within a region and set narrative and numerical objectives to protect the designated beneficial uses and conform to the state’s anti-degradation policy. Designated beneficial uses, narrative and numeric water quality objectives, and the state’s anti-degradation policy, together, comprise the water quality standards. Basin plans also describe implementation programs to protect all waters within a region. In addition, basin plans incorporate (by reference) all other applicable State and Regional Water Board plans and policies and other pertinent water quality policies and regulations (e.g., California Toxics Rule or CTR, California Ocean Plan, etc.).

At the outset of each triennial review, possible additions and revisions to water quality standards are identified and prioritized at a public hearing. These prioritized additions and revisions are then developed and implemented through future Basin Plan amendments over the course of the three-year cycle, based upon available resources.

Following revisions to the federal Water Quality Standards (WQS) regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 131 that went into effect in August 2015, a major focus of the 2017-19 Triennial Review was the consideration of new or updated CWA section 304(a) water quality criteria recommendations published by the U.S. EPA since May 30, 2000 for incorporation into the region's Basin Plan. The results of this evaluation are presented in the attached Memo.

By this notice, staff is now soliciting input on projects to be addressed during the 2020-22 triennial review period. Specifically, interested persons are invited to submit data, information, documents and other evidence regarding current water quality standards and any suggested revisions or additions to water quality standards applicable to waters in the Los Angeles Region. Because current ongoing projects continue to obligate Basin Planning resources, staff requests each organization to limit their comments to two projects of the greatest interest to them. All submittals should include, at a minimum, the following information for each comment:

Submitting Organization: This section should include the name of the organization, entity or person submitting the data, information, documents or evidence for consideration.

Contact Person: This section should include the name, address, phone number(s), and e-mail address for the contact person that can answer questions about the information provided.

Affected Water Quality Objective, if applicable: This section should include, if applicable, the water quality objective for which data, information, or evidence is being submitted. If those relate to more than one water quality objective, please list all water quality objectives to which the information pertains.

Affected Waterbody(ies) and Watershed(s): This section should identify the specific waterbody(ies) and watershed(s) affected by the data, information or evidence, using the nomenclature as described in the Basin Plan for hydrologic units, areas and subareas. Alternatively, a map should be submitted to identify the affected waterbody(ies) and watershed(s).

Affected Beneficial Use, if available: This section should identify the beneficial use listed in the Basin Plan that is addressed by the data, information or evidence. Alternatively, if the information relates to a beneficial use not currently designated in the Basin Plan, this section should identify the waterbody(ies) to which the beneficial use should apply.

Concise Summary of Data, Information or Evidence: This section should describe in several sentences the essence of the data, information, or evidence.

Concise Summary of Suggested Revisions: This section should clearly and specifically describe the suggested revisions to beneficial uses and/or water quality objectives based upon the data, information or evidence submitted.

Supporting Data, Information or Evidence: For each comment, list any existing documents, data, information, and/or specific evidence (with references to particular pages as appropriate) that the Los Angeles Water Board should consider and provide copies of the documents, data, information, and/or evidence referenced (electronically, where possible).

All written comments and supporting documents, data, information, and evidence must be received by the Los Angeles Water Board **no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 23, 2020.**

All comments and supporting documents, data, information, and evidence must be submitted to losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line "Comment Letter – 2020-22 Triennial Review" with a copy to Celine.Gallon@waterboards.ca.gov. Please note that submittals to this e-mail address are limited in size to a maximum of 10 MB. Submittals greater than 10 MB, sent via our e-mail address, must be transmitted in multiple e-mails, e.g. 1 of 4, 2 of 4. Alternatively, interested persons may submit comments and supporting documents, data, information, and evidence on CDs or flash drives, where the submittal is greater than 10 MB. CDs and flash drives must be received by the deadline and should be mailed to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
Attn: Dr. Céline Gallon
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Staff will consider stakeholder comments in finalizing the basin planning priorities that will be presented to the Los Angeles Water Board for their consideration and approval at a public meeting. The approved projects, along with those currently in progress, will dictate staff basin planning activities through 2022. In addition to this initial solicitation for input on priorities, there will be other opportunities for public participation, including public comment periods and public hearings for any Los Angeles Water Board actions related to consideration of new or revised water quality standards.

If you have questions about the triennial review process, contact Dr. Céline Gallon at (213) 576-6784 or by e-mail at Celine.Gallon@waterboards.ca.gov. Please share this request for data and information with other interested persons who may not be included on our distribution list. We look forward to your continued participation in our efforts to protect water quality.