




Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

**NOTICE OF HEARING AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT**

**TO:** Interested Persons

**FROM:** Renee Purdy   
Section Chief, Regional Programs

**DATE:** March 22, 2016

**SUBJECT:** NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER NON-REGULATORY AMENDMENTS TO ADMINISTRATIVELY UPDATE CHAPTER 4 “STRATEGIC PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION” AND SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION IN CHAPTER 2 “BENEFICIAL USES” OF THE BASIN PLAN

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board) will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of non-regulatory amendments to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region* (Basin Plan) to administratively update Chapter 4 “Strategic Planning and Implementation” and specific geographic information in Chapter 2 “Beneficial Uses.”

**I. BACKGROUND**

The Basin Plan is the Los Angeles Water Board’s water quality control plan for the coastal watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. The Basin Plan contains the region’s water quality standards, which consist of beneficial uses, water quality objectives to protect those uses, and an anti-degradation policy, along with a program of implementation, and non-regulatory descriptions of the region covered by the Basin Plan. The current Basin Plan was adopted by the Los Angeles Water Board on June 13, 1994, and approved by the State Water Resources Control Board on November 17, 1994 and by the State Office of Administrative Law on February 23, 1995.

In 2010, the Los Angeles Water Board recognized the need for an overall update to the Basin Plan as several amendments to the Basin Plan, which had been adopted since 1994 and were in effect, had not been physically integrated into the Basin Plan. Also, the Basin Plan did not reflect current information on Los Angeles Water Board programs, plans and policies, or more recently available geographical and background information for the Los Angeles Region. As a result, an administrative update of the Basin Plan was identified as a priority project to be addressed during the 2008-2010 triennial review (Resolution No. R10-001).

The administrative update to the Basin Plan has been conducted in phases, four of which have been completed to date. The update to Chapter 2 “Beneficial Uses” was completed in November 2011, and was followed by the addition of Chapter 7 “TMDLs” to the Basin Plan in December 2011. The update to Chapter 3 “Water Quality Objectives” was conducted in May

2013, and the administrative update of Chapters 1 “Introduction”, 5 “Plans and Policies”, and 6 “Monitoring and Assessment of the Basin Plan was completed in September 2014.

This administrative update of Chapter 4 is the final phase of the comprehensive update to the Basin Plan. Chapter 4 “Strategic Planning and Implementation” contains descriptions of all the Los Angeles Water Board’s programs. These programs are the vehicle through which the goal of protecting, enhancing and restoring the quality of the region’s surface and ground water is accomplished and through which the region’s water quality standards are implemented and enforced. The proposed administrative update to Chapter 4 of the Basin Plan specifically includes:

- (i) Incorporation of previously adopted Basin Plan amendment language,
- (ii) Updates to descriptions of Los Angeles Water Board programs,
- (iii) Addition of new sections discussing “Funding for Water Quality Improvement Projects” and “Climate Change Considerations,” and
- (iv) Updates to tables, maps, and figures to reflect current Los Angeles Water Board program information, as well as background and geographical information.

In addition, administrative updates to specific geographic information in Chapter 2 are being proposed at this time. The proposed administrative updates include:

- (i) Updates to certain hydrologic unit codes (HUCs) in the beneficial use tables and tributary tables to reflect changes made since its administrative update in 2011, and
- (ii) Revision to certain reach descriptions in the beneficial use tables and tributary tables to provide clarification and to correct previous clerical errors.

The proposed administrative updates to Chapters 4 and 2 of the Basin Plan are non-regulatory in nature and do not involve any changes to water quality standards for the surface and ground waters of the Los Angeles Region. Neither do they modify the application of these standards or their implementation provisions. They are the final phase of a multi-step plan to comprehensively administratively update the entire Basin Plan. Any regulatory updates to the Basin Plan will be addressed in the future as separate Board actions.

## **II. PUBLIC HEARING DATE AND LOCATION**

The Los Angeles Water Board will hold a public hearing to consider amending the Basin Plan to administratively update Chapters 4 and 2 after hearing Board staff’s presentation and public comments. The Los Angeles Water Board is expected to take formal action on the proposed amendments to administratively update the Basin Plan. The Board is scheduled to consider this matter at its regularly scheduled board meeting on:

**Date:** Thursday, June 9, 2016

**Time:** 9:00 AM

**Place:** Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
700 North Alameda Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Please check the Los Angeles Water Board's website (<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/>) for the most up-to-date public hearing date and location as they are subject to change. If there is not a quorum on the scheduled date of the public hearing, all items will be automatically continued to the next scheduled meeting. A continuance of the hearing will not automatically extend any deadlines set forth in this notice.

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Theresa Rodgers at (213) 576-6789 or [Theresa.Rodgers@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Theresa.Rodgers@waterboards.ca.gov) at least five working days prior to the meeting.

### III. SCOPE OF HEARING

Interested persons may present relevant written and oral comments and evidence on the proposed Basin Plan amendments. Please be advised that comments or evidence concerning the appropriateness of any previously adopted Basin Plan amendment are not relevant to this action and will not be accepted or responded to. Comments shall be limited to the proposed administrative updates to Chapters 4 and 2 of the Basin Plan.

### IV. AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

The draft tentative resolution, updated Basin Plan chapters, and staff reports are available on the Los Angeles Water Board's website at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/).

These documents are also available for inspection and copying between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM at the following address:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Los Angeles Region  
320 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Arrangements for file review and/or obtaining copies of documents may be made by calling the Los Angeles Water Board at (213) 576-6600. Appointments are encouraged so the documents can be readily available upon arrival. Comments and responses to comments and other subsequent relevant documents will be available online as they are generated.

### V. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUBMITTAL OF EVIDENCE

Persons wishing to comment on the draft tentative resolution, Basin Plan amendments, and staff reports, or submit evidence, for the Los Angeles Water Board to consider are invited to submit them in writing. To be evaluated and responded to by Board staff, included in the Board's agenda binder, and fully considered by the Board members in advance of the hearing, all written comments and evidence must be received by the Board **no later than 5:00 PM on May 9, 2016**. Untimely submittal of written comments will not be accepted or responded to by the Los Angeles Water Board.

Interested persons are encouraged to submit comments electronically. Send comments by e-mail to: [Ginachi.Amah@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Ginachi.Amah@waterboards.ca.gov). Please indicate in the subject line, "Comment Letter – Administrative Update to Basin Plan Chapters 4 and 2." Written comments submitted

through email are requested to be transmitted in Microsoft Word format. Written comments sent by mail should be addressed to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Los Angeles Region  
Attn: Dr. Ginachi Amah  
320 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Failure to comply with these requirements is grounds for the Los Angeles Water Board to refuse to admit the proposed written comment or exhibit into evidence pursuant to section 649.4, Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations.

Interested persons are also invited to attend the hearing and present oral comments to the Board. To the extent possible, oral presentations should summarize any submitted written comments and evidence. Oral comments are generally limited to 3 minutes each, but time limitations may be adjusted at the discretion of the Chair, depending on the number of persons wishing to be heard and other items before the Board. Interested persons seeking more than 3 minutes to present oral comments at the hearing must contact the Los Angeles Water Board staff contact identified below by **May 31, 2016** to request additional time.

The State Water Board when considering approval of a regional water board's adoption of Basin Plan amendments may refuse to accept any comments that were not timely raised before the regional water board. Therefore, interested persons are strongly encouraged to make all comments on this proposed action to the Los Angeles Water Board before or during the public hearing.

## **VI. FUTURE NOTIFICATIONS FROM STATE WATER BOARD**

Any person desiring to receive future notices from the State Water Board regarding its approval process for the proposed amendments must sign up for the State Water Board's Lyris list at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/swrcb\\_subscribe.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml)

## **VII. LOS ANGELES WATER BOARD STAFF CONTACTS**

For additional information regarding this proposed action, please contact Dr. Ginachi Amah at (213) 576-6685 or [Ginachi.Amah@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Ginachi.Amah@waterboards.ca.gov).