


Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT**

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Renee Purdy 
Section Chief, Regional Programs

DATE: April 3, 2015

SUBJECT: Notice of Public Hearing for a proposed amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region to incorporate a Total Maximum Daily Load for Indicator Bacteria in the San Gabriel River, Estuary and Tributaries

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board) will consider a proposed amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan) to incorporate a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to establish waste load and load allocations and an implementation plan to attain water quality objectives for indicator bacteria in the San Gabriel River, Estuary and Tributaries (SGR). Additional regulations or policies, consistent with the general purpose of the proposed amendment and complementary to the proposal may be developed at the hearing as a logical outgrowth of discussions.

I. HEARING DATE AND LOCATION

The Los Angeles Water Board will hold a public hearing to consider amending the Basin Plan to incorporate a TMDL for indicator bacteria in the SGR after hearing Los Angeles Water Board staff's presentation and public comments. The Los Angeles Water Board is expected to take formal action. The Los Angeles Water Board is scheduled to consider this matter at its regularly scheduled board meeting on:

Date: June 11, 2015
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Metropolitan Water District
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Please check the Los Angeles Water Board's website (<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/>) for the most up-to-date public hearing location as it is subject to change.

II. AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

The tentative resolution, proposed Basin Plan amendments, substitute environmental documents (SED), and staff report are available on the Los Angeles Water Board's website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/tmdl/tmdl_list.shtml

These documents are also available for inspection and copying between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the following address:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

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

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUBMITTAL OF EVIDENCE

Persons wishing to comment on the tentative resolution, proposed Basin Plan amendment, SED, and staff report, or submit evidence for the Los Angeles Water Board to consider, are invited to submit them in writing. Oral presentations should be summarized in writing to the extent possible. To be evaluated and responded to by Los Angeles Water Board staff, included in the Los Angeles Water Board's agenda binder, and fully considered by the Los Angeles Water Board members in advance of the hearing, all written comments and evidence must be *received* by the Los Angeles Water Board no later than **5:00 p.m. on May 18, 2015**. Untimely submittal of written comments will not be accepted or responded to. Failure to comply with these requirements is grounds for the Los Angeles Water Board to refuse to admit the proposed written comment or evidence into the administrative record.

Interested persons are encouraged to submit comments electronically. Send comments by email to: losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov. Please indicate in the subject line, "**Comment Letter – SGR Bacteria TMDL.**" 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: Kangshi Wang
320 West Fourth Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, California 90013

Interested persons are also invited to attend the hearing and present oral comments. Oral comments may be limited to 3 minutes each, at the discretion of the Chair, depending on the number of persons wishing to be heard. If necessary, time limitations on presentations may be imposed. Interested persons should contact Los Angeles Water Board staff, as provided in Section V. below, no later than **5:00 pm on June 1, 2015** to state how much time they believe is necessary for their presentations. All exhibits including charts, graphs and other testimony presented at the public hearing must be left with the Los Angeles Water Board for inclusion in the Administrative Record.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), when considering approval of a Los Angeles Water Board's adoption of a Basin Plan amendment, may refuse to accept any comments that were not timely raised before the Los Angeles 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.

IV. 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

V. REGIONAL WATER BOARD STAFF CONTACTS

For additional information regarding the SGR Bacteria TMDL adoption, contact Kangshi Wang at (213) 576-6780 or Jenny Newman at (213) 576-6691.

I. BACKGROUND

The Los Angeles Water Board's goal in incorporating the above-mentioned TMDL is to protect the beneficial uses of these waterbodies, which include Water Contact (REC 1) and Non-Contact (REC 2) recreational uses and to restore overall water quality in the SGR. The Los Angeles Water Board has prepared this TMDL to address the documented impairments by indicator bacteria in the SGR.

The Los Angeles Water Board is charged with implementing the provisions of both the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act (California law) and the federal Clean Water Act in the Los Angeles Region. One of the ways in which the Los Angeles Water Board implements these laws is through the development and implementation of water quality standards for all of the water bodies within the Region. Under the federal Clean Water Act, water quality standards consist of beneficial use designations of water bodies and numeric or narrative water quality objectives that are protective of those beneficial uses as well as the State's anti-degradation policy. Section 303(d)(A)(1) of the Clean Water Act requires the State to identify those waters, which are impaired by pollution (not meeting water quality standards), and establish TMDLs for the pollutants causing the impairments. A TMDL specifies the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards, and allocates the acceptable pollutant load to point and nonpoint sources.

The proposed TMDL sets numeric water quality targets for indicator bacteria based on numeric water quality objectives provided in the Basin Plan. Permitted stormwater dischargers, other NPDES dischargers, and nonpoint source dischargers are assigned allocations for this TMDL.

The proposed TMDL would require the responsible parties to achieve the final waste load and load allocations within 10 years for dry weather and 20 years for wet weather. The goal of the TMDL implementation is to attain the final TMDL allocations, demonstrate attainment of the TMDL numeric targets, and restore the beneficial uses of the SGR.