


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: June 21, 2016

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 Nutrients in the Santa Clara River Lakes (Elizabeth Lake, Munz Lake, and Lake Hughes)**

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 nutrients in the Santa Clara River Lakes (Elizabeth Lake, Munz Lake, and Lake Hughes). 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 nutrients in the Santa Clara River Lakes 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: September 8, 2016  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Place: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
Board Room  
700 North Alameda Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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.

Please notify any other persons who you feel would be interested in the subject item.

## 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](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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 August 5, 2016**. 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](mailto:losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov). Please indicate in the subject line, "**Comment Letter – SCR Lakes Nutrients 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: Stefanie Hada  
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 August 29, 2016** 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](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml)

#### **V. REGIONAL WATER BOARD STAFF CONTACTS**

For additional information regarding the Santa Clara River Lakes TMDL adoption, contact Stefanie Hada at (213) 576-6804 or Jenny Newman at (213) 576-6691.

#### **VI. BACKGROUND**

The Los Angeles Water Board's goal in establishing the TMDL is to restore the Santa Clara River Lakes so that they fully support recreational uses; aquatic and wildlife habitat, including habitat for rare/threatened/endangered species at Elizabeth Lake; and groundwater recharge at Munz Lake. The Los Angeles Water Board has prepared this TMDL to address the documented impairments by nutrients in the Santa Clara River Lakes, which are adversely impacting these beneficial uses.

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 nutrients based on numeric water quality objectives provided in the Basin Plan, and through translation of narrative water quality objectives for biostimulatory substances contained in the Basin Plan using the nutrient numeric endpoint (NNE) framework. Storm drain discharges, internal loads, runoff from drainage areas surrounding the lakes, the Lake Hughes Community Wastewater Treatment Facility, onsite wastewater treatment systems, and atmospheric deposition are assigned allocations for this TMDL.

The proposed TMDL would require the waste load allocations assigned to storm drain discharges to be achieved within 15 years of the effective date of the TMDL. A 15-year schedule would be established to

achieve load allocations assigned to internal loading of nutrients within the lakes. Similarly, a 15-year schedule would be established to achieve load allocations assigned to nonpoint source runoff to the lakes, so that actions to address nonpoint source runoff could be coordinated with in-lake restoration efforts. A 12-year schedule would be established to achieve load allocations assigned to the Lake Hughes Community Wastewater Treatment Facility and onsite wastewater treatment systems in order to address these sources of nutrients before in-lake restoration actions are completed. The goal of the TMDL implementation plan is to restore the multiple beneficial uses of the Santa Clara River Lakes by reducing nutrient inputs to the lakes.