



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region

Winston H. Hickox
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

Over 50 Years Serving Coastal Los Angeles and Ventura Counties
Recipient of the 2001 *Environmental Leadership Award* from Keep California Beautiful



Gray Davis
Governor

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, California 90013
Phone (213) 576-6600 FAX (213) 576-6640 - Internet Address: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4>

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Samuel Unger
Unit Chief, TMDL Unit 2

DATE: May 2, 2003

**SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES RIVER NUTRIENT TMDL
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND TRANSMITTAL OF
TENTATIVE BASIN PLAN AMENDMENT AND STAFF REPORT**

On July 10, 2003, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional 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 reduce nitrogen compound loading to Los Angeles River. A public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, July 10, 2003 at 9:00 A.M., in the Board Room of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, 700 N. Alameda Street, Los Angeles, California. At the public hearing, the public will have opportunity to comment on the proposed TMDL.

A copy of the Tentative Basin Plan Amendment and Staff Report for the Los Angeles River Nitrogen Compounds and Related Effects TMDL is posted on the Regional Board's web page. The web address is http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4/html/meetings/tmdl/tmdl_ws_los_angeles.html. Please contact Thanhloan Nguyen at 213-576-6690 or Sam Unger at 213-576-6784 with questions or to request additional copies of the staff report and related materials.

Oral presentations should be summarized in writing to the extent possible. Time limitations on presentations may be imposed. In order to review and to assess comments, the Regional Board staff must receive written comments no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 16, 2003. Comments should be submitted to:

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

ATTN: Thanhloan Nguyen

California Environmental Protection Agency

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption
For a list of simple ways to reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see the tips at: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/news/echallenge.html>



Our mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

Background

The proposed amendment would incorporate into the Basin Plan a TMDL for nutrient loading to Los Angeles River. As background, Regional Board staff considered studies related to nitrogen loading to Los Angeles River. In consideration of elevated ammonia and oxidized nitrogen compound levels, toxicity and eutrophic effects in Los Angeles River, U.S. EPA listed Los Angeles River on the 1998 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies in California.

The Regional Board's goal in considering the above-mentioned TMDL is to reduce nitrogen loadings in Los Angeles River so that the River can fully support beneficial uses associated with warm freshwater habitat and groundwater recharge among others. Elevated levels of ammonia are known to cause toxicity to aquatic organisms and elevated levels of oxidized nitrogen are known to cause eutrophic effects in freshwater systems.

The Regional 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. Section 303(d)(A)(1) of the Federal Clean Water Act requires the Regional Board to identify water quality limited segments within the Region (i.e., those water bodies not attaining 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, non-point and natural sources. The TMDL can be expressed in terms of either mass per time, toxicity, concentration, or other appropriate measures.

Analysis of the extensive nitrogen compound monitoring data collected from POTW effluent and within Los Angeles River has shown that ammonia and oxidized nitrogen concentrations exceed water quality objectives for these compounds. The Regional Board staff has prepared this TMDL to address the documented nitrogen water quality impairments in Los Angeles River.

The TMDL establishes an Implementation Plan for reducing the loading of nitrogen compounds to the Los Angeles River from point sources. Waste load allocations (WLAs) are provided for major point sources of ammonia and nitrogen compounds to the Los Angeles River. Nitrate and nitrite WLAs are also set for NPDES/WDR and MS4s permittees. Load allocations for non-point sources will not be developed at this time. Load allocations may be developed if it is determined they are necessary after load reductions are effected through implementation of the waste load allocations. Additional monitoring is included in the implementation plan to verify the nitrogen contribution from nonpoint sources. The TMDL implementation plan also sets forth other monitoring programs, including consideration of a site-specific objective for ammonia in Los Angeles River, assessment of groundwater loading, and assessment of the extent and magnitude of algae impairment within the Los Angeles River Watershed. The TMDL focuses on reducing the sources of nitrogen compounds from POTW effluent discharges.

California Environmental Protection Agency

*****The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption***
For a list of simple ways to reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see the tips at: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/news/echallenge.html>**



Recycled Paper

Our mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations.