



Winston H. Hickox  
Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection

# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## Los Angeles Region

(50 Years Serving Coastal Los Angeles and Ventura Counties)

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Gray Davis  
Governor

To: Interested Persons

From: Melinda Becker  
Chief, Standards & TMDL Unit I  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region

Date: June 9, 2003

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 (TMDL) for Bacteria at Marina del Rey Harbor Mothers' Beach and Back Basins

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (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 bacteria at Marina del Rey Harbor Mothers' Beach and Back Basins. 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. The Regional Board will act on the proposed amendment after hearing staff's presentation and public comments. Copies of the proposed resolution, Basin Plan amendment, staff report, CEQA checklist and Notice of Filing can be obtained from the Regional Board website at [www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4) (select "TMDLs" under the "Quick Menu"). Please contact Rebecca E. Christmann at 213-576-6757 for additional information or to obtain a hard copy of the documents.

***A Public Hearing will be held on August 7, 2003  
at 9:00 a.m. at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
700 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles, California***

Written comments and exhibits must be submitted to the Regional Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 24, 2003. Failure to comply with these requirements is grounds for the Board to refuse to admit the proposed written comment or exhibit into evidence (California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Section 649.4).

Comments should be submitted to:

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

ATTN: Rebecca Christmann

All exhibits including charts, graphs and other testimony presented at the public hearing must be left with the Regional Board for inclusion in the Administrative Record. Please note that the Regional Board may impose time limits on oral testimony at the public hearing.

### ***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>\*\*\*



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## Background

The proposed amendment would incorporate into the Basin Plan a TMDL to reduce bacteria at Marina del Rey Harbor Mothers' Beach and Back Basins. The Regional Board's goal in incorporating the above-mentioned TMDL is to reduce the risk of illness associated with swimming in marine waters contaminated with human sewage and other sources of bacteria. Swimming in waters with elevated bacteria densities has long been associated with adverse health effects. Local and national epidemiological studies compel the conclusion that there is a causal relationship between adverse health effects, such as gastroenteritis, and recreational water quality, as measured by bacteria indicator densities.

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. One of the ways in which the Regional 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 TMDL can be expressed in terms of either mass per time, toxicity, concentration, or other appropriate measure.

Elevated bacterial indicator densities are causing impairment of the water contact recreation (REC-1) beneficial use at Marina del Rey Harbor Mothers' Beach and Back Basins. The Regional Board has prepared this TMDL to address the documented bacteriological water quality impairments.

The TMDL establishes a phased 10-year plan for reducing the number of days that exceed REC-1 bacteriological objectives at SMB beaches such that (1) bacteriological water quality is as good as that of a "reference" beach (i.e., a beach with a largely natural drainage area) and (2) no degradation of existing water quality occurs. The purpose of this project is to remove the bacteriological water quality impairments that prevent Marina del Rey Harbor Mothers' Beach and Back Basins from supporting the REC-1 beneficial use. It involves holding jurisdictions within the watershed jointly accountable for discharges from their storm drains, and encourages the use of a variety of methods to prevent these discharges.

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