



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Los Angeles Region



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Environmental  
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**TO:** Interested Persons

**FROM:** Samuel Unger  
Unit Chief, TMDL Unit 2  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region

**DATE:** April 30, 2004

**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 Los Angeles Harbor including Inner Cabrillo Beach and Main Ship Channel

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 Inner Cabrillo Beach and Main Ship Channel at a public hearing scheduled for July 1, 2004. The Regional Board will act on the proposed amendment after hearing staff's presentation and public comments. Additional regulations or policies, consistent with the general purpose of the proposed amendment and complementary to the proposal may be developed as a logical outgrowth of the public hearing.

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 " " Dominguez Channel " under the " Information and Resources "). Please contact L.B. Nye at 213-576-6785 for additional information or to obtain a hard copy of the documents.

***A Public Hearing will be held on July 1, 2004  
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 June 14, 2004. 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: L.B. Nye

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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.

### CEQA Scoping

In addition to the public meeting noticed above, a meeting will be held pursuant to the California Public Resource Code section 21083.9 to receive comments on the appropriate scope and content of the “functionally equivalent” environmental document to be prepared pursuant to section 2080.5 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The scoping meeting for the action described above will be held at:

Cabrillo Marine Aquarim Auditorium  
3720 Stephen White Drive,  
San Pedro, California,  
Thursday, May 13, 2003; 1:00 P.M.

Any person who requires special accommodations to participate in the scoping meeting, please contact staff listed above no later than 3 days before the scheduled meeting.

### Background

The proposed amendment would incorporate into the Basin Plan a TMDL to reduce bacteria at Inner Cabrillo Beach and the Main Ship Channel of the Los Angeles Harbor. 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 Inner Cabrillo Beach and the potential REC-1 beneficial use at the Main Ship Channel.

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The Regional Board has prepared this TMDL to address the documented bacteriological water quality impairments. The TMDL discusses the sources of bacteria to Inner Cabrillo Beach and sets forth waste load and load allocations to attain water quality standards. The technical approach to this TMDL is based on the Santa Monica Bay and Marina Del Rey Mothers' Beaches TMDL which have been adopted by the Regional Board.

The purpose of this TMDL is to remove human-generated bacteriological water quality impairments that prevent Inner Cabrillo Beach and Main Ship Channel from supporting the REC-1 beneficial use. The TMDL establishes a tiered implementation plan to BMPs and structural remedies, if required, to attain water quality standards. The TMDL provides 5 years for reducing the number of summer and winter dry weather days that exceed REC-1 bacteriological objectives at Main Ship Channel. The number of days that exceed REC-1 bacteriological objectives for wet weather at Main Ship Channel are already below the number allowed by the reference beach approach. For Inner Cabrillo Beach, the targets for number of exceedance days of bacteriological objectives will be met five years after the effective date of the TMDL.

The TMDL also includes special studies to further assess the water quality in the northern portion of Inner Cabrillo Beach and the Main Ship Channel. The City of Los Angeles is responsible for meeting the TMDL requirements for Inner Cabrillo Beach. The County of Los Angeles and the City of Los Angeles are responsible for meeting the TMDL requirements in the Inner Harbor and the Main Ship Channel.

