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Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region



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To: Interested Persons

From: Melinda Becker
Acting Section Chief, Regional Programs
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region

Date: July 12, 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 Metals in Ballona Creek and Ballona Creek Estuary

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 metals loadings to Ballona Creek and Ballona Creek Estuary. 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. 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 (select "Total Maximum Daily Loads/TMDLs" under the "Updates and News" tab). Please contact Rebecca Christmann at (213) 576-6757 for additional information or to obtain a hard copy of the documents.

***A Public Hearing will be held on September 2, 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 August 26, 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: 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



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 to reduce metals loadings to Ballona Creek, Sepulveda Canyon Channel, and Ballona Creek Estuary (Estuary). The Regional Board's goal in incorporating the above-mentioned TMDL is to protect the beneficial uses of Ballona Creek and Estuary associated with aquatic and wildlife habitat and to achieve water quality objectives. Elevated metals concentrations have been associated with aquatic toxicity. The Regional Board has prepared this TMDL to address the documented metals impairments in Ballona Creek and Estuary.

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 loads. The TMDL can be expressed in terms of either mass per time, toxicity, concentration, or other appropriate measures.

The proposed TMDL establishes a 10-year implementation schedule for dry-weather compliance and a 15-year schedule for wet-weather compliance. For dry-weather conditions, the TMDL develops mass-based and concentration-based waste load allocations for the Los Angeles County MS4 and Caltrans stormwater permittees. For wet-weather conditions, the TMDL developed load capacity curves for the MS4 and Caltrans stormwater permittees. Concentration-based waste load allocations were developed for dry and wet weather for the minor NPDES discharges, general NPDES discharges, and general industrial and construction stormwater discharges. The implementation plan includes an evaluation of a combination of non-structural and structural best management practices (BMPs) that could be used to achieve compliance with the municipal stormwater waste load allocations.