



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## Los Angeles Region



Recipient of the 2001 *Environmental Leadership Award* from Keep California Beautiful

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Agency Secretary

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Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

**TO:** Interested Persons

**FROM:** Deborah J. Smith  
Chief Deputy Executive Officer

**DATE:** April 26, 2005

**SUBJECT: MAY 5, 2005 PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGION TO INCORPORATE TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS FOR TOXICITY, CHLORPYRIFOS, DIAZINON, ORGANOCHLORINE PESTICIDES, POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS, AND SILTATION IN CALLEGUAS CREEK, ITS TRIBUTARIES AND MUGU LAGOON**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) developed two Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to reduce toxicity, chlorpyrifos, diazinon, organochlorine pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, and siltation in Calleguas Creek, its tributaries and Mugu Lagoon. A workshop before the Regional Board will be held on May 5, 2005 to review the proposed TMDLs and solicit input from stakeholders and the public. The Regional Board will not take formal action on the tentative TMDLs at the workshop on May 5, 2005. Based on information presented at the Workshop, the Regional Board may provide guidance to staff to revise the tentative TMDLs before the Regional Board takes formal action at a subsequent Regional Board hearing.

The Public Workshop is scheduled for:

**Thursday, May 5, 2005**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**Council Chambers**  
**2929 Tapo Canyon Road**  
**Simi Valley, California**

The tentative resolutions to adopt the TMDLs, proposed Basin Plan Amendments, TMDL Technical Reports, California Environmental Quality Act checklist, and other documentation describing the TMDLs are available on the Regional Board website:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/html/meetings/tmdl/tmdl.html>.

If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact Sandra Kelley at (213) 576-6619 for a copy of the documents.

**California Environmental Protection Agency**



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

The Regional Board will then consider adoption of the TMDLs at a subsequent Regional Board hearing. Written comments on these TMDLs are due to the Regional Board by close of business on June 10, 2005. Please submit written comments to:

Dr. L.B. Nye  
Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region  
320 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
(213) 576-6785

## **Background**

The Regional Board, working with Calleguas Creek stakeholders and the US EPA, has developed TMDLs to reduce toxicity, chlopyrifos, diazinon, organochlorine pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, and siltation in Calleguas Creek, its tributaries and Mugu Lagoon. Elevated concentrations of pesticides and PCBs have been associated with aquatic toxicity. The TMDLs are needed to protect designated beneficial uses associated with aquatic and wildlife habitat, and to achieve water quality objectives, which protect these beneficial uses. The Regional Board has prepared this TMDL to address the documented impairments in Calleguas Creek, its tributaries and Mugu Lagoon. A public workshop before the Regional Board will be held to review the proposed TMDLs and solicit input from stakeholders and the public. After the workshop, the Regional Board will consider amending the Basin Plan to incorporate the TMDLs.

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. Implementation of these laws is achieved 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, which 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 (i.e. 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 may be expressed in terms of mass per time, toxicity units, concentration, or with other appropriate measures.



The proposed TMDL sets numeric targets based on the water quality, sediment quality, and fish tissue guidelines compiled by the US EPA, California Department of Fish and Game, the California Toxics Rule, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. These guidelines are applicable numeric targets because the impairments and the 303(d) listings were based on water quality, sediment quality, and fish tissue data. In addition, the pollutants being addressed have a high affinity for particles and the delivery of these pollutants is generally associated with the transport of suspended solids from the watershed or from sediments within Calleguas Creek, its tributaries and Mugu Lagoon.

For point sources, water and sediment concentration-based waste load allocations were developed, depending on the characteristics of the discharge. Waste load allocations for the NPDES permits (including minor and general permits) will be translated into permit limits upon their issuance, renewal, or re-opener. For non-point sources, sediment concentration-based load allocations were developed, which will likely be implemented through a Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Lands, currently under development by the Regional Board. It is proposed that dischargers achieve compliance with wasteload and load allocations for diazinon and chlorpyrifos within seven years of the effective date of the TMDL and that dischargers achieve water quality standards for organochlorine pesticides and PCBs within 19 years of the TMDL.

