



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region



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

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Samuel Unger *SU*
Unit Chief, TMDL Unit 2

DATE: March 30, 2006

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGION TO INCORPORATE TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD TO REDUCE METALS AND SELENIUM IN THE CALLEGUAS CREEK, ITS TRIBUTARIES, AND MUGU LAGOON

On June 8, 2006, 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 metals and selenium loadings to Calleguas Creek. A public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, June 8, 2006 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 Calleguas Creek Watershed Metals and Selenium TMDL is posted on the Regional Board's web page. The web address is <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/html/bpaRes/bpa.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 May 16, 2006. 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



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 and selenium loading to Calleguas Creek. The Regional Board's goal in establishing the Calleguas Creek Metals and Selenium TMDL is to protect the aquatic life and wildlife beneficial uses of Calleguas Creek, its tributaries, and Mugu Lagoon, and to achieve the numeric water quality objectives set to protect these uses as contained in the California Toxic Rule (CTR).

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, non-point, and natural sources. The TMDL can be expressed in terms of either mass per time, toxicity, concentration, or other appropriate measures.

The proposed TMDL establish a 10-year implementation schedule for POTWs and other NPDES permittees, and a 15-year implementation schedule for agricultural and permitted storm-water dischargers to reduce the loading of metals and selenium to the Calleguas Creek. This implementation program recognizes the economic limitations on achieving immediate compliance especially for agricultural and municipal storm water dischargers. The TMDL also authorizes the use of BMPs, to the extent authorized by law, for various dischargers including agricultural and storm water dischargers. For dry-weather conditions, the TMDL develops mass-based waste load allocations for urban runoff and agricultural dischargers. For wet-weather conditions, the TMDL develops flow-weighted waste load allocations for urban runoff and agricultural dischargers. The TMDL develops both concentration-based and mass based waste load allocations for the POTWs and other NPDES dischargers for both wet- and dry- weather conditions. The implementation plan includes an evaluation of a combination of water quality monitoring, hot-spot removal, waste collection and sediment control. The proposed TMDL also consists of a monitoring program to assess compliance with the waste load allocations; to collect additional data in order to evaluate the uncertainties and assumptions made in development of the TMDL, and to collect data to evaluate potential management scenarios.