



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region



Linda S. Adams
Cal/EPA Secretary

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, California 90013
Phone (213) 576-6600 FAX (213) 576-6640 - Internet Address: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles>

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Samuel Unger, P.E. *SU*
Section Chief, Regional Programs

DATE: April 4, 2007

SUBJECT: CORRECTIONS TO MACHADO LAKE TRASH TMDL

On March 20, 2007 a Trash TMDL for Machado Lake in the Dominguez Channel Watershed was released for public review. The public review documents include the Notice of Hearing, Notice of Filing, Proposed Basin Plan Amendment, Tentative Resolution, Staff Report, and Substitute Environmental Documents. This memorandum is to correct discrepancies in the Proposed Basin Plan Amendment and the Staff Report. The TMDL corrections include:

1. In the Proposed Basin Plan Amendment, Page 3 in Table 7-26.1, Machado Lake Trash TMDL Elements, Problem Statement shall be replaced by the following:

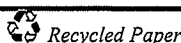
Current levels of trash discharges into Machado Lake violate water quality objectives and are impairing beneficial uses. Relevant water quality objectives include Floating Material and Solid, Suspended, or Settleable Materials. The following designated beneficial uses are impacted by trash: contact water recreation (REC-1); non-contact water recreation (REC-2); warm freshwater habitat (WARM); wildlife habitat (WILD), rare, threatened, or endangered species (RARE), and wetland habitat (WET).

2. In the Staff Report, Page 8, Section II Problem Statement, the entire Subsection C, Beneficial Uses of Machado Lake, shall be replaced by the following paragraphs:

The various uses of waters in the Los Angeles Region, referred as beneficial uses, are designated in the Basin Plan. These beneficial uses are the cornerstone of the State and Los Angeles Water Board's effort to protect water quality, as water quality objectives are set at levels that will protect the most sensitive beneficial use of a waterbody. Brief descriptions of the beneficial uses in the watersheds or waterbodies of concern are provided in this section.

The Basin Plan for the Los Angeles Regional Board (1994) defines 7 types of beneficial uses for Machado Lake in the City of Los Angeles, which are rated as existing (E) or potential (P) as shown in Table 1.

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Surface Waters	Hydro. Unit #	MUN	REC1	REC2	WARM	WILD	RARE	WET
Machado Lake	405.12	P*	E	E	E	E	E	E
E = Existing beneficial use								
P = Potential beneficial use								
* = MUN designation under SB 88-63 and RB 89-03. Some may be exempt.								

Table 1. Beneficial Uses of Machado Lake

Machado Lake has a potential beneficial use of Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN), and six existing beneficial uses including Water Contact Recreation (REC-1), Non-contact Water Recreation (REC-2), Warm Freshwater Habitat (WARM), Wildlife Habitat (WILD), Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species (RARE), and Wetland Habitat (WET). The designated beneficial uses for Machado Lake are briefly described below. All beneficial uses must be protected.

Machado Lake (40 acres) and associated wetlands (64 acres) serve as flood retention basins for approximately 20 square miles of the Dominguez Watershed. Discharges from the lake and wetlands enter the West Basin of the Los Angeles Harbor through the Harbor Outflow structure.

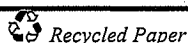
The Machado Lake ecosystem supports both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. In general, native species dominate the terrestrial wildlife community, while non-native species dominate the aquatic community. The riparian woodland, seasonal wetland, and scrub upland that surrounds the lake supports hundreds of bird species, including sensitive, threatened and endangered species, such as the brown pelican, California least tern, western least bittern, American peregrine falcon, coastal California gnatcatcher, western snowy plover, white-tailed kite, yellow warbler, and tri-colored blackbird.

Fish species currently found in the lake are primarily introduced, non-native species, including, large mouth bass, bluegill, green sunfish, channel catfish, black bullhead, carp, goldfish, and mosquito fish. Not much is known about amphibians and reptiles found in this ecosystem; however western toad, Pacific tree frog, leopard frog, and bullfrog have been documented in the park.

3. In the Staff Report, Section II Problem Statement, the first paragraph of Subsection E, Impairment of Beneficial Uses, Page 9, shall be replaced by the following:

Beneficial uses impaired by trash in Machado Lake are contact water recreation (REC-1); non-contact water recreation (REC-2); warm freshwater habitat (WARM); wildlife habitat (WILD); rare, threatened, or endangered species (RARE); and wetland habitat (WET). These beneficial uses in Machado Lake are impaired by accumulations of suspended and settled debris. Common items that have been observed by Regional Board staff include styrofoam cups, styrofoam food containers, glass and plastic bottles, paper cartons, packaging materials, plastic bags, and cans. Heavier debris can be transported during storms as well.

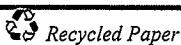
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Regional Board staff apologize for any inconvenience. If there are any questions, please contact Dr. Eric Wu at (213) 576-6683 or Sam Unger at (213) 576-6622.

CC: Michael Levy, Office of Chief Counsel, State Water Resources Control Board

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