



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region



Linda S. Adams
Cal/EPA Secretary

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

TO: Interested Parties

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

DATE: March 20, 2007

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 TRASH IN VENTURA RIVER ESTUARY

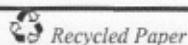
On June 7, 2007, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) will consider a proposed amendment to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region* (Basin Plan) to incorporate a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to reduce trash loadings to Ventura River Estuary. With consideration of the TMDL, the Regional Board will also consider waiving waste discharge requirements for nonpoint source discharges of trash to Ventura River Estuary. A public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, June 7, 2007 at 9:00 A.M., at the Simi Valley City Hall, 2929 Tapo Canyon Road, Simi Valley, California. At the public hearing, the public will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed TMDL and the associated waiver for waste discharge requirements for nonpoint source discharges of trash to Ventura River Estuary.

Copies of the Tentative Resolution, Tentative Basin Plan Amendment, Staff Report, and Substitute Environmental Documents for the Ventura River Estuary Trash 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 Eric Wu at 213-576-6683 or Jenny Newman at 213-576-6691 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 4, 2007. Comments should be submitted to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles California, 90013

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 trash loading to Ventura River Estuary. The Regional Board's goal in establishing the Trash TMDL is to protect the beneficial uses in Ventura River Estuary including navigation (NAV), contact recreation (REC 1) and non-contact recreation (REC 2), commercial and sport fishing (COMM), warm fresh water habitat (WARM), estuarine habitat (EST), marine habitat (MAR), wildlife habitat (WILD), rare, threatened or endangered species (RARE), migration of aquatic organisms (MIBR), spawning, reproduction, and/or early development (SPWN), shellfish harvesting (SHELL), and wetland habitat (WET); and to achieve the narrative water quality objectives for floating material and solid, suspended, or settleable materials to protect these uses as contained in the Basin Plan.

The Regional Board is charged with implementing the provisions of 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.

Waste Load Allocations (WLAs) are assigned to the City of Ventura, Ventura County, Ventura County Watershed Protection District, and Caltrans. Final WLAs are zero (0) trash. Baseline WLAs are based on a phased reduction from the estimated current discharge (i.e., baseline) over an eight-year period until the final WLA of zero (0) is met. Load Allocations (LAs) are assigned to the City of Ventura, Ventura County, California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and Agricultural Dischargers. Load allocations are zero (0) trash. Baseline LAs are based on a phased reduction over a period of five years, from existing baseline loads to zero (0).

The proposed TMDL establishes a plan for progressively reducing the amount of trash that may be discharged to the waterbodies. The implementation and compliance schedule is designed to coordinate with trash reduction efforts that have been implemented by responsible jurisdictions and local land owners. The Baseline Waste Load and Load Allocations are based on a reference approach. The compliance requirements are progressive reductions from Baseline Waste Load and Load Allocations each year of trash discharges until both Waste Load and Load Allocations

reach zero. This approach ensures that measurable reductions to the trash impairment will be achieved in a timely manner, while flexibility in implementation is provided for the responsible agencies.

The TMDL will be implemented primarily through waivers of discharge requirement conditioned upon implementation of an approved minimum frequency of assessment and collection (MFAC) for trash in Ventura River Estuary. The waivers require that responsible jurisdictions assess and collect all visible trash from the Ventura River Estuary and the shorelines twice per week and after critical conditions of high winds, wet weather events and high visitation. Additionally, the waivers require that the amount of trash collected at each collection event is reduced by 50% from the Baseline Load Allocation. Point source dischargers may implement the TMDL through a MFAC program, or alternatively, through implementation of full-capture devices on stormdrains that discharge to Ventura River Estuary.