



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## Los Angeles Region



Linda S. Adams  
Agency Secretary

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

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Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

### STAFF MEMORANDUM: SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS AT THE LOS ANGELES RIVER TRASH TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD COLLOQUIUM, AUGUST 25, 2006

On August 25, 2006, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board) hosted a Trash Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Colloquium for Los Angeles River at the Los Angeles River Center and Garden, 570 West Avenue 26, Los Angeles, California. The purpose of the Colloquium was to update stakeholders of Los Angeles River Watershed with the status and progression of the Trash TMDL.

Over three hundred invitations were distributed to State Senators, Assembly Members, County Supervisors, City Council Members, Mayors, City Public Works Directors and other stakeholders. Attending stakeholders included Caltrans, Los Angeles County, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Cities of Downey, Glendale, Alhambra, Pasadena, Los Angeles, Monrovia, La Canada Flintridge, Arcadia, Signal Hill, Santa Fe Springs, Burbank, Vernon, Long Beach, and Pico Rivera, and environmental organizations such as Heal the Bay, Santa Monica Baykeeper, and Friends of Los Angeles River. A total of 62 people were in attendance.

Mr. David Nahai, Chair of LARWQCB, firstly welcomed all government agencies, interested parties and the public to be supportive of, and join efforts to implement, the new Trash TMDL to improve water quality in the Los Angeles River. Mr. Nahai reiterated the definition of "trash" and emphasized that the numeric target of "zero" trash in Los Angeles River is attainable with existing, available technology, described below, and requires the cooperation of all municipalities.

The following are brief summaries of each section of the presentation:

#### **TMDL Evolution and Framework**

Ms Alexis Strauss, Director of Water Division, Region IX, USEPA, discussed the Consent Decree signed on March 22, 1999 among USEPA, Santa Monica Baykeeper and Heal the Bay, Inc. to establish 92 TMDLs in the Los Angeles Region. Ms Strauss pointed out that if the Regional Board is unable to complete required TMDLs on schedule, the EPA will adopt the necessary TMDLs. EPA, however, adopts TMDLs without implementation schedules.

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*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*

### **Legal Status of the Trash TMDL**

Mr. Michael Levy, Senior Staff Counsel, State Water Resources Control Board, reviewed the background of the 2001 Los Angeles River Trash TMDL, including the establishment of the 303(d) list, legal claims brought by cities within Los Angeles River watershed against the 2001 Trash TMDL, and the Court of Appeals decision to uphold the Trash TMDL on all grounds except for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance. Mr. Levy also discussed concerns about cost benefit analysis per California Water Code 13267 and 13241, regulations applied to storm water permits for implementation, and load allocations for national parks.

### **CEQA Compliance Strategy and Timeline – Trash TMDL Milestones**

Mr. Jonathan Bishop, Executive Officer of LARWQCB, identified the differences between the 2001 and 2006 Los Angeles River Trash TMDLs, including CEQA documentations and compliance schedules. Mr. Bishop explained that the California Secretary of Resources has determined that the Regional Board’s basin planning process (which is used to develop TMDLs) is a “certified regulatory program” exempting the process from certain CEQA requirements; however, the Regional Board complies with CEQA as a certified regulatory program. Mr. Bishop also pointed out that the 2006 Trash TMDL CEQA documentation has provided a review of full capture systems, partial capture systems and institutional controls with potential adverse environmental impacts and an analysis of mitigation measures. The 2006 Trash TMDL compliance schedule requires a 30% reduction after the first year, and sets “zero” trash compliance after 7 years.

Mr. Bishop then discussed the procedures and requirements for certification of a Best Management Practice (BMP) for trash control as a full capture system. The details of this certification procedure are described in a memo from Michael Yang of LARWQCB to Mr. Bishop, dated August 3, 2004. Briefly, a BMP can be certified as a full capture system if it 1) traps all particles retained by a 5-mm screen, and 2) has a treatment capacity that exceeds the peak flow rate resulting from a one-year, one-hour storm in the subdrainage area treated by the BMP. Additionally, some BMPs must have an end-of-pipe configuration if they would cause a pressure drop. Any pipes required by a BMP must be adequately sized to carry peak flows from the subdrainage area. Lastly, the BMP must be regularly inspected and serviced to continually maintain adequate flow-through capacity.

The process for certification of a BMP as a full capture system begins with submittal of a letter requesting “full capture system certification” along with any necessary supporting documentation to the Executive Officer. Regional Board staff will then schedule a time for the proponent to present the BMP to Regional Board staff, and will conduct a site survey if necessary. Staff will then inform the proponent of any additional required information, and will subsequently make a written determination on the certification of the proposed BMP as a full capture system. As of August 2006, three requests for certification of a BMP as a full capture system have been approved. The Cities of Burbank, Glendale and La Canada Flintridge developed a brush and

aluminum mesh combination that can be installed in catch basins. This BMP, along with proper maintenance, is certified as a full capture system. The Hamilton Bowl Trash Nets developed by Fresh Creek Technologies, Inc. are certified as a full capture system as long as they meet the additional requirements mentioned above, such as end-of-pipe configuration, adequate pipe sizing, regular inspections, and regular maintenance. Finally, both the Linear Radial Gross Solids Removal Device (GSRDs) and the Inclined Screen Gross Solids Removal Device developed by Caltrans are certified as full capture systems as long as they meet the additional requirements mentioned above, such as adequate pipe sizing, adequate drainage, regular inspections, and regular maintenance.

### **Proven and Promising Compliance Technologies**

Mr. Robert Wu, Caltrans Senior Transportation Engineer, presented the GSRD with designs of Linear Radial and Inclined Screen that have been certified as full capture systems. Dimensions of Linear Radial GSRDs vary depending on the drainage area. Two sizes, 5 mm and 3 mm, of Inclined Screen GSRDs were studied. There are wide ranges of construction costs from \$100,000 to \$210,000 per unit due to actual size and site conditions.

Mr. Jack Amar, Environmental Program Administrator for the City of Glendale, proposed a simple but cost effective method that the City developed that has also been certified as a full capture system. Continuous broom brushes were installed along the upper edge of storm drain inlets to prevent trash from entering. Inside the catch basins, a full capture 5 mm screen completely covers the basin to avoid the overflow of trash. The cost estimated is approximately \$800 per catch basin. Each catch basin may need to be cleaned by a vacuum truck once per wet season for 45 minutes to one hour.

Subsequent to the discussions at the Colloquium of the various compliance technologies available, staff reviewed the locations of full capture devices currently implemented in the watershed. A partial list of these locations is as follows:

- A total of five brush and mesh full capture systems have been installed in the City of Glendale in existing storm drains. The units are located at the intersection of Isabel and Broadway, the intersection of Jackson and Broadway, at the post office on Broadway, and in two locations north of the post office. These are urban, high trash loading sites.
- Caltrans has installed the Linear Radial GSRD (LR1 I-10) off the I-10 Freeway at Rosemead and the Inclined Screen GSRD (IS1 SR-170) in the City of North Hollywood along the northbound side of State Route 170.
- Continuous Deflection Separators (CDS) are a type of vortex separation system (VSS) and another full capture device. The City of Los Angeles has installed CDS units in several locations, including:

- Los Angeles Coliseum on Vermont between 43<sup>rd</sup> Street and 42<sup>nd</sup> Place. The CDS unit installed was PSW70-70,
- Westlake area on 11<sup>th</sup> Street between Park View and Grand View. The CDS unit installed was PSW70-70, and
- Downtown Los Angeles on Park Grove just north of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. The CDS unit installed was PSW100-100.

### **Funding Strategies and Opportunities**

Mr. Raymond Jay, Regional Grant Coordinator, LARWQCB, described the types of grants available and the procedures for making a grant application. Overall, it takes an average of 12 months to develop grant guidelines, to have guidelines adopted by the Board, to receive applications, and to review and select applicants of award. Currently, there are 39 active grants valued at approximately 27 million dollars, in the Los Angeles Region which address trash at least in part. Grant funded projects in the Los Angeles Region include the Hamilton Bowl Trash Reduction Project and the San Gabriel River Watershed Non-point Source Pollution Reduction Program.

Attachment: Agenda Trash TMDL Colloquium





Los Angeles River Trash TMDL Colloquium

Los Angeles River Center and Garden  
570 West Avenue 26  
Los Angeles, CA

August 25, 2006, 2006  
8:30am - 11:30am

**AGENDA**

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|--------------------|--|
| <b>8:30-9:00</b>   | <b>Registration and Coffee</b>   |
| <b>9:00-9:10</b>   | <b>Welcome</b><br>David Nahai, Chair<br>Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board   |
| <b>9:10-9:25</b>   | <b>TDML Evolution and Framework</b><br>Alexis Strauss, Director, Water Division<br>Region IX, US EPA   |
| <b>9:25-9:45</b>   | <b>Legal Status of the Trash TMDL</b><br>Michael Levy, Senior Staff Counsel<br>State Water Resources Control Board   |
| <b>9:45-10:05</b>  | <b>CEQA Compliance Strategy and Timeline</b><br><b>Trash TMDL Milestones</b><br>Jonathan Bishop, Executive Officer<br>Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board |
| <b>10:05-10:25</b> | <b>Questions and Answers</b>   |
| <b>10:25-10:35</b> | <b>Break</b>   |
| <b>10:35-11:05</b> | <b>Proven and Promising Compliance Technologies</b><br>Robert Wu, Caltrans<br>Jake Amar, City of Glendale  |
| <b>11:05-11:25</b> | <b>Grant Funding Opportunities</b><br>Raymond Jay, Regional Grant Coordinator<br>Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board                                      |
| <b>11:25-11:30</b> | <b>Closing Remarks</b><br>Raymond Jay, Regional Grant Coordinator<br>Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board  |