



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region



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NOTICE OF HEARING

To: Interested Persons

From: Samuel Unger *SU*
Acting Section Chief, Regional Programs
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region

Date: July 7, 2006

Subject: Notice of Public Hearing for a proposed amendment to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region* to incorporate a Total Maximum Daily Loads for Trash in the Los Angeles River Watershed.

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (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 Loads (TMDL) to remove trash from the impaired waterbodies of the Los Angeles River Watershed. Additional regulations or policies, consistent with the general purpose of the proposed amendment and complementary to the proposal may be developed at the hearing as a logical outgrowth of discussions. The Regional Board will act on the proposed amendment after hearing staff's presentation and public comments. Copies of the proposed resolution, Basin Plan amendment, staff report, CEQA checklist and Notice of Filing can be obtained from the Regional Board website at www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4 (select "Total Maximum Daily Loads/TMDLs" under the "Updates and News" tab). Please contact Dr. Ginachi Amah at (213) 576-6685 for additional information.

***A Public Hearing will be held on September 14, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.
at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles, California***

Written comments and exhibits must be submitted to the Regional Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 21, 2006. Failure to comply with these requirements is grounds for the Board to refuse to admit the proposed written comment or exhibit into evidence (California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Section 649.4). Comments should be submitted to:

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

ATTN: Dr. Ginachi Amah

All exhibits including charts, graphs and other testimony presented at the public hearing must be left with the Regional Board for inclusion in the Administrative Record. Please note that the Regional Board may impose time limits on oral testimony at the public hearing.

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 remove trash from the impaired waterbodies of the Los Angeles River Watershed. The Regional Board's goal in incorporating the above-mentioned TMDL is to protect the beneficial uses of these waterbodies which include recreational and wildlife uses, and to restore the overall water quality in the waterbodies of the Los Angeles River Watershed. The Regional Board has prepared this TMDL to address the documented trash impairments in these waterbodies.

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 and nonpoint sources. The TMDL can be expressed in terms of either mass per time, toxicity, concentration, or other appropriate measure.

The proposed TMDL sets a numeric water quality target of 0 (zero), which is derived from the narrative water quality objectives for floating materials and settleable solids, both of which apply to trash. These objectives are as follows:

“Waters shall not contain floating materials, including solids, liquids, foams, and scum, in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.”

“Waters shall not contain suspended or settleable material in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.”¹

In the Los Angeles River watershed, storm drains are a primary conveyor of trash to waterways. Waste Load Allocations are assigned to the Permittees and Co-permittees of the Los Angeles County Municipal Stormwater Permit and Caltrans. In addition, Waste Load Allocations may be issued to additional facilities in the future under Phase II of the US EPA Stormwater Permitting Program. The assigned Waste Load Allocations assigned under the MS4 permit and the Caltrans permit will be based on a phased reduction from the estimated current discharge (i.e., baseline).

The baseline allocation for the MS4 Permittees and Co-permittees was derived from currently available land-use based data collected during the Baseline Monitoring Program. Trash reduction allocations will be incorporated into stormwater permits, which will be modified to address monitoring and implementation of the trash TMDL. The compliance schedule requires a 30% reduction of the baseline Waste Load Allocation in the first year, and annual reductions of 10% in subsequent years until the final Waste Load Allocation (currently set at zero) is met. Final compliance is required in the 10th year, based on a 3-year rolling average in order to account for variability in stormwater discharge.

¹ Water Quality Control Plan (“Basin Plan”), p. 3-9.