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California Regional Water Quality Control Board Los Angeles Region

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NOTICE OF HEARING

To: Interested Persons

From: Samuel Unger, P.E.
Section Chief, Regional Programs
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region

Date: June 4, 2007

Subject: Notice of Public Hearing for a proposed amendment to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region* to incorporate Total Maximum Daily Loads for Boron, Chloride, Sulfate, and TDS in Calleguas Creek 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 establish wasteload and load allocations and an implementation plan to attain water quality objectives for Boron, Chloride, Sulfate, and TDS (Salts) in the Calleguas Creek 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, Substitute Environmental Document containing the CEQA checklist, and Notice of Filing can be obtained from the Regional Board website <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/html/bpaRes/bpa.html>. Please contact Thanhloan Nguyen at (213) 576-6690 for additional information.

***A Public Hearing will be held on August 9, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.
at the City of Simi Valley, Council Chambers
2929 Tapo Canyon Road, Simi Valley, California***

Written comments and exhibits must be submitted to the Regional Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 19, 2007. 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: 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.

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.

Background

The proposed amendment would incorporate into the Basin Plan a TMDL to remove salts from the impaired waterbodies of the Calleguas Creek Watershed. The Regional Board's goal in incorporating the above-mentioned TMDL is to protect the beneficial uses of these waterbodies which include municipal and domestic supply, industrial and domestic supply, industrial service supply, agricultural supply, and groundwater recharge, and to restore the overall water quality in the waterbodies of the Calleguas Creek 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 proposed TMDL sets numeric water quality targets for salts based on the specific numeric water quality objectives (WQOs) provided in the Basin Plan. Wastewater treatment plants (POTWs), permitted stormwater dischargers, other NPDES dischargers, and irrigated agricultural discharges are assigned allocations for this TMDL. Mass-based allocations are assigned for these dischargers to allow tracking and coordination with achieving the salt balance in the watershed. POTW wasteload allocations were calculated as the water quality objective multiplied by the flow of the POTW. An adjustment factor was added to the allocations to ensure background loads that are not exported from the watershed are subtracted from the POTW loadings to meet the loading capacity and to allow for increased exports from the watershed to compensate for increased POTW loadings when water supply loads to the POTW increase. Permitted stormwater dischargers and irrigated agricultural discharges are assigned a dry weather wasteload and load allocation equal to the average dry weather critical condition flow rate multiplied by the numeric target for each constituent. WLAs and LAs apply to POTWs, permitted stormwater discharges, other NPDES discharges, and irrigated agricultural discharges during dry weather when the flows in the receiving water are below the 86th percentile flow. During wet weather, the loading capacity of the stream is significantly increased by stormwater flows with very low salt concentrations. Any discharges from the POTWs, permitted stormwater discharges, other NPDES discharges, and irrigated agricultural discharges during wet weather would be assimilated by these large storm flows and would not cause exceedances of water quality objectives.

The proposed TMDL would require the POTWs, permitted stormwater dischargers, other NPDES dischargers, and irrigated agricultural dischargers to achieve their allocations in prescribed percentages of the watershed, and final allocations in the entire watershed within 15 years. The goal of the TMDL implementation plan is to achieve a salts balance within the Calleguas Creek Watershed (CCW) and

protect salt-sensitive beneficial uses. Through achieving a salts balance, water quality is expected to improve and allow achievement of water quality standards. The implementation plan for the Salts TMDL includes watershed specific implementation actions that will be enacted throughout the watershed and subwatershed specific implementation actions. Watershed specific projects include the Calleguas Regional Salinity Management Conveyance (RSMC), water reservation program, and water softener reduction program. Subwatershed specific implementation actions include the Renewable Water Resource Management Programs (RWRMP) for Northern and Southern Reaches of the Calleguas Creek Watershed. RWRMP includes expansion of the recycled water transmission and distribution system, treatment of unconfined aquifers that currently contain water with high salts concentrations, development of existing and new water blending facilities, relocation of the wastewater discharge point for the Camarillo WRP, Camrosa WRF, and in a later phase the Hill Canyon WTP to downstream of Potrero Road Bridge on the Calleguas Creek, installation of wells to pump groundwater and discharge into the stream system, and construction of shallow dewatering wells in the lower watershed where salts may accumulate. The implementation plan has been developed as a phased plan to allow for a review of implemented actions to assess the impacts on the salt balance and water quality. Future considerations may result in additional actions being implemented.