



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region



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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

TO: Interested Parties

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

DATE: July 7, 2008

SUBJECT: **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND AVAILABILITY OF TENTATIVE BASIN PLAN AMENDMENT AND STAFF REPORT FOR THE REVISION OF THE CALLEGUAS CREEK NITROGEN COMPOUNDS AND RELATED EFFECTS TMDL**

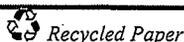
On September 11, 2008, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) will consider a proposed amendment to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region* (Basin Plan) to revise a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to reduce nitrogen compounds loading to Calleguas Creek. The Calleguas creek Nitrogen compounds and Related Effects TMDL was previously adopted on October 24, 2002 under Resolution Number 02-017. This TMDL revision is a limited action to include the POTW effluent flow conditions in calculating the mass based daily wasteload allocations (WLAs) for ammonia. No other WLAs or TMDL requirements will be considered as part of this action.

A public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, September 11, 2008 at 9:00 A.M., in the Board Room of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, 700 N. Alameda Street, Los Angeles, California. At the public hearing, the public will have opportunity to comment on the proposed TMDL. A copy of the Tentative Basin Plan Amendment and Staff Report for the Calleguas Creek Nitrogen and Effects TMDL is posted on the Regional Board's web page. The web address is http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/press_room/announcements/index.shtml. Please contact Thanhloan Nguyen at 213-576-6689 or Sam Unger at 213-576-6622 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 August 21, 2008. Comments should be submitted to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
320 West 4th Street
Los Angeles California, 90013
ATTN: Thanhloan Nguyen

California Environmental Protection Agency



Background

The proposed amendment would revise the mass based daily WLAs for ammonia in the Calleguas Creek Nitrogen Compounds and Related Effects TMDL, adopted on October 24, 2002, Resolution Number 02-017. As background, Regional Board staff has considered studies of conditions related to nitrogen loadings to Calleguas Creek. Elevated levels of nitrogen compounds such as ammonia are known to cause toxicity to aquatic organisms and elevated levels of oxidized nitrogen are known to cause eutrophic effects in freshwater systems. In consideration of elevated nitrogen compound levels and their related effects including toxicity and eutrophic conditions in Calleguas Creek, US EPA listed Calleguas Creek on its 1998 and 2002 303(d) lists of impaired waterbodies in California.

The TMDL for Nitrogen Compounds and Related Effects for Calleguas Creek, Resolution No. 02-017 was approved by the State Board on March 19, 2003, the Office of Administrative Law on June 5, 2003, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on June 20, 2003. The Calleguas Creek Nitrogen Compounds and Related Effects TMDL waste load allocations will be incorporated into the permits in conformance with the Clean Water Act and related federal regulations. In preparing the NPDES permit renewals, Regional Board identified a typographical error in the mass based daily WLAs for ammonia. Translating a concentration-based limit into a mass based daily limit requires multiplying the concentration-based limit by the flow rate. The mass based daily WLAs for ammonia, however, were incorrectly calculated as the product of the daily flow rate and the average monthly effluent limits (AMEL), rather than the daily flow rate and the maximum daily effluent limits (MDEL).

This Basin Plan Amendment corrects the mass based daily WLAs for ammonia to be based upon the MDEL, and updates the WLAs to be consistent with the current practice of recognizing that POTW effluent flow can vary. The mass based WLAs for ammonia are corrected to be based on the maximum daily effluent limit, MDEL and the actual POTW effluent flow rate at the time the monitoring is conducted. The use of the POTW effluent flow rate to calculate mass based WLAs is consistent with other TMDLs recently approved by U.S. EPA. The revision to this previously adopted TMDL is to reflect the updated Wasteload Allocations assigned to ammonia loadings in Calleguas Creek so that the Creek can continue to be used to support beneficial uses associated with aquatic habitat and groundwater recharge among others.

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. Section 303(d)(A)(1) of the Federal Clean Water Act requires the Regional Board to identify water quality limited segments within the Region (i.e., those water bodies not attaining 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.