



Linda S. Adams  
Agency Secretary

# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Los Angeles Region

Over 51 Years Serving Coastal Los Angeles and Ventura Counties



Arnold Schwarzenegger  
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## NOTICE OF HEARING

To: Interested Persons

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

Date: September 30, 2008

Subject: Notice of Public Hearing for a Proposed Amendment to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region* to Re-consider the Upper Santa Clara River Chloride TMDL and Consider Conditional Site Specific Objectives for Chloride

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 reconsider the Upper Santa Clara River (USCR) chloride Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and consider conditional site specific objectives (SSOs) for chloride. 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 (Board) will act on the proposed amendment after hearing staff's presentation and public comments.

Copies of the Proposed Resolution, Tentative Basin Plan Amendments, Draft Staff Report, Draft Substitute Environmental Document containing the CEQA checklist, Responses to Comments to Date, Notice of Filing, and other related documents for the proposed Basin Plan amendments are available on the Regional Board's website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/tmdl/tmdl\\_list.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/tmdl/tmdl_list.shtml)

***A Public Hearing will be held on December 11, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.  
Ventura County Board of Supervisors Meeting Room  
800 S. Victoria Ave., Ventura, California***

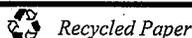
Written comments and exhibits must be received by the Regional Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 14, 2008. Failure to comply with these requirements is grounds for the Board to refuse to admit the proposed written comment or exhibit into evidence (California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Section 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: Yanjie Chu

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

This proposed action is part of the USCR chloride TMDL implementation plan which was adopted by the Regional Board on August 3, 2006 and approved by the State Water Resources Control Board on May 22, 2007. The TMDL includes special studies to determine the chloride threshold levels for salt-sensitive crops and endangered and threatened species, and the chloride loading from surface water to underlying groundwater basins. The implementation plan requires the Regional Board to review the status and results of special studies and to consider amending the TMDL schedule, establishing site-specific objectives (SSOs), and revising the water quality objectives (WQOs) in 2008. Specifically, Task 10 of the TMDL Implementation Schedule states that "a) Preparation and Consideration of a Basin Plan Amendment (BPA) to revise the chloride objective by the Regional Board. b) Evaluation of Alternative Water Supplies for Agricultural Beneficial Uses: CSDLAC will quantify water needs, identify alternative water supplies, evaluate necessary facilities, and report results, including the long-term application of this remedy. c) Analysis of Feasible Compliance Measures to Meet Final Wasteload Allocations for Proposed Chloride Objective. CSDLAC will assess and report on feasible implementation actions to meet the chloride objective established pursuant to Task 10a). d) Reconsideration of and action taken on the Chloride TMDL and Final Wasteload Allocations for the Upper Santa Clara River by the Regional Board".

Regional Board staff finds that the work to date provides sufficient information on the chloride hazard threshold for salt-sensitive crops, the chloride threshold for endangered species, and the hydraulic and contaminant interactions between surface waters and groundwater basins in the USCR watershed. A stakeholder developed plan for complying with the TMDL, termed "Alternative Water Resources Management Plan" (AWRM) considers the results of key TMDL studies to fashion a plan that provides reduction of chloride loads from current levels, enhancement of water supplies for recycling and downstream uses, restoration of groundwater basins underlying the USCR, and consideration of critical conditions such as a sustained drought. The AWRM requires a revision to existing WQOs for chloride, but it provides a significant reduction in chloride loading from current levels such that the most stringent beneficial uses are attained. During the critical condition of sustained drought, growers are provided alternative water to meet requirements and the chloride exported from the watershed still exceeds chloride into the watershed so that groundwater conditions will continue to improve. The AWRM consists of chloride source reduction actions and chloride load reduction through advanced treatment of the Valencia Water Reclamation Plant effluent in conjunction with conditional SSOs. These source and load reductions mitigate the effect of any chloride accumulation in the groundwater basin.

The TMDL provides a ten-year schedule to attain compliance with the conditional SSOs. The recommended WQO changes before the Regional Board are conditioned on implementation of the AWRM program; if the AWRM system is not built, the water quality objectives revert back to the current levels in the Basin Plan.