



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

San Diego Region



Linda S. Adams
Acting Secretary for
Environmental Protection

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January 28, 2011

In reply refer to:

TMDL: ccheng:650436

Dear TRVRT Members and Interested Stakeholders:

RE: Follow up on Tijuana TMDL Public Workshop and CEQA Scoping Meeting

I would like to personally thank you for your participation in our January 20, 2011 Tijuana River and Estuary Sediment and Trash TMDL Public Workshop and CEQA Scoping Meeting. The agenda, sign-in sheet, and presentations from both meetings are now available at the San Diego Water Board's website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/tmdls/TijuanaRiverValley.shtml.

Extension of Comment Period

We have extended the review and comment period for both the Public Workshop and the CEQA Scoping Meeting from 2 weeks to 39 days from the meeting date of January 20, 2011. The new deadline for submittal of comments is now Monday, February 28, 2011. This is your first and very early opportunity to comment on the TMDL project before the project decisions have been made. Although we encourage you to submit written comments at this time, keep in mind that there will be additional opportunities for both formal and informal public comment as the project progresses. In organizing your first submittal, we request that you separate your comments on the Public Workshop (first meeting) from your comments on the CEQA Scoping Meeting (second meeting). For example, consider the use of separate headings (as shown below).

Comments on Public Workshop

As stated in our December 14, 2010 Public Notice, "the purpose of the Public Workshop is to provide information, answer questions, and receive early public input on the TMDL project. Specifically participants will be provided with (1) an explanation and understanding of the TMDL project under development; and (2) an opportunity to comment on the project."

Accordingly, you are free to comment on any aspect of the proposed TMDL project and the information presented or discussed. You may also comment on topics that were not discussed at the workshop as long as they are directly relevant to the Water Board's short-term goal of significantly reducing trash and excess sediment discharges to the Tijuana River and Estuary; and/or our long-term goal of eventually restoring the

River and Estuary to a condition in which all applicable water quality standards are once again achieved. For example, if you are aware of a specific data set, study, person, factor, or concern that you would like us to know about and include (or address) during the development of our TMDL project, let us know. If you have comments related to our proposal for the TRVRT to serve as our Stakeholder Advisory Group; to incorporate the TRVRT's ongoing studies into our Technical TMDL calculations; or to incorporate the TRVRT's Roadmap (aka Integrated Implementation Strategy) into our TMDL Implementation Plan, we are interested.

Comments on CEQA Scoping Meeting

Under the California Environmental Quality Act, the San Diego Water Board is required to evaluate potentially significant environmental effects that may arise from (1) the adoption of the TMDL Basin Plan Amendment (TMDL/BPA); and (2) the reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance with the TMDL/BPA. We are requesting public comment on the appropriate scope and content of the environmental analysis (aka CEQA scoping) as well as on the following specific topics:

- Reasonably foreseeable Methods of Compliance with TMDL/BPA;
- Reasonably foreseeable Environmental Impacts associated with those methods, including evidence and magnitude of such impacts;
- Reasonably foreseeable Alternative Methods of Compliance that would likely have less environmental impacts; and
- Reasonably foreseeable Mitigation Measures that would likely reduce environmental impacts.

At this time we are particularly interested in your comments regarding the reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance with the TMDL/BPA. Your recommendations on each of the four bullets above would be especially helpful (you may want to consider the use of a spreadsheet for this). At the time we actually prepare the environmental analysis, we anticipate looking largely to the TRVRT's upcoming Roadmap, in addition to all public comments received.

With respect to evaluating alternatives to the TMDL Basin Plan Amendment itself, the San Diego Water Board is currently in the process of exploring a number of regulatory actions which, under limited circumstances, may serve as legal alternatives to the adoption of a TMDL Basin Plan Amendment. As our understanding of such alternatives continues to evolve, we will likely conduct a future public workshop devoted just to this topic.

Consideration of Your Comments

Be assured that we will carefully consider each written and oral comment received before 5:00 pm on Monday, February 28, 2011. Although we will not prepare a formal written Responses to Comments document at this time, we will incorporate your

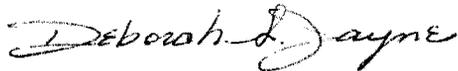
comments, as appropriate, into the development of the TMDL Staff Report and the CEQA environmental analysis.

Please submit your comments to the attention of Charles Cheng, Project Manager, via one of the following three methods:

- U.S. mail: Mr. Charles Cheng
San Diego Water Board
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123-4340
- By fax: (858) 571-6972
- By email: ccheng@waterboards.ca.gov

Thank you once again for your interest in our Tijuana River and Estuary Sediment and Trash TMDLs. We are looking forward to working with each of you on this most challenging project. If you have questions about this letter or the January 20, 2011 Public Workshop and CEQA Scoping Meeting, you may contact me directly at 858-467-2972, or may reach Charles Cheng, the Project Manager at 858-627-3930.

Sincerely,



Deborah S. Jayne
Senior Environmental Scientist
dsj:cqc

cc: Tijuana River Valley TMDLs Lyris List