

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, SAN DIEGO REGION

TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDLs) FOR MOUTHS OF CHOLLAS AND PALETA CREEKS IN SAN DIEGO BAY

**January 18, 2005 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Regional Board Hearing Room
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego California 92123-4340**

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (Regional Board) will hold a public workshop on the draft findings of the TMDL sediment assessment studies conducted thus far at the mouths of Chollas Creek and Paleta Creek. The TMDL studies completed to date include: Phase I – Spatial Extent and Magnitude of Sediment Impacts, Phase II – Temporal Study of Toxicity and Benthic Community Impacts, and Phase II – Toxicity Identification Evaluations. The Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) and Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center San Diego (SPAWAR) are conducting these studies.

The objectives of the workshop are: (1) to present the draft findings on the TMDL studies currently completed, (2) answer questions, and (3) receive input from the public. Public participation is an important part of the TMDL process and is encouraged.

Two or more Regional Board members may attend this meeting. However, no voting will occur.

BACKGROUND

In 1998, the Regional Board listed the mouths of Chollas Creek and Paleta Creek on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list due to sediment toxicity and degraded benthic communities. These listings are based on the results of the 1996 Bay Protection and Toxic Cleanup Program (BPTCP). The BPTCP designated the mouth of Chollas Creek as a moderate priority toxic hot spot on the basis of benthic community impacts and elevated chlordane, and total chemistry observed at three sampling locations. The BPTCP designated the mouth of Paleta Creek as a high priority toxic hot spot on the basis of recurring sediment toxicity, benthic community impacts, and elevated chlordane, DDT, PAHs, and total chemistry at three sampling locations.

A three-phased approach is currently being conducted to develop TMDLs for the mouths of Chollas Creek and Paleta Creek. Phase I consists of delineating the spatial extent and magnitude of sediment impacts. Phase II consists of determining the cause(s) of impairment, temporal variability, and sources of the contaminants of concern. Phase III, if necessary, consists of deriving numerical sediment cleanup levels and identifying cleanup boundaries.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

The findings for Phase I - Spatial Extent and Magnitude of Sediment Impacts is detailed in a draft report titled: "Sediment Assessment Study for the Mouths of Chollas Creek and Paleta Creek, San Diego (September 2004)." A copy of the draft report can be downloaded from the Regional Board website at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9/>. The draft report can also be reviewed by appointment at the Regional Board office at the address shown below.

The Phase II draft report will be posted on the Regional Board website when completed by SCCWRP. It is anticipated that the Phase II draft report will be available for public review before the workshop.

INFORMATION

Parking is available at the workshop location. See the Regional Board web site for a map to the workshop. The workshop room facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Lori Costa at (858) 467-2357 at least 5 working days prior to the January 18, 2005 workshop. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Mr. Tom Alo at:

Email: TAlo@waterboards.ca.gov

Telephone: (858) 636-3154

Please bring the foregoing to the attention of any persons you know who would be interested in this matter. Thank you for your interest in the protection of water quality.

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John H. Robertus
Executive Officer
December 20, 2004