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## Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

**TO:** Interested Persons

**FROM:** LB Nye, PhD  
Section Manager, Regional Programs

**DATE:** October 20, 2022

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) SCOPING MEETING TO CONSIDER POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF AMENDING THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGION TO UPDATE FRESHWATER AMMONIA OBJECTIVES**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board) will hold a CEQA scoping meeting to consider adopting amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan) to update the existing ammonia objectives with the 2013 United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Aquatic Life Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Ammonia - Freshwater.

### **I. BACKGROUND**

The Los Angeles Water Board's Basin Plan contains the water quality standards for the coastal watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties in the Los Angeles Region. These standards include water quality objectives that are described in Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan.

In 2013, U.S. EPA published an update to freshwater ammonia criteria that included all new toxicity data, particularly from sensitive freshwater mollusks. Based on the new datasets, U.S. EPA concludes that the overall sensitivity of freshwater mollusks, particularly unionid mussels, and non-pulmonate snails to ammonia is high. To incorporate the U.S. EPA updated criteria that accurately reflects the latest scientific knowledge for water bodies in the Los Angeles Region, the Los Angeles Water Board must formally adopt the updated 2013 U.S. EPA ammonia criteria as a Basin Plan amendment.

The proposed amendment to the Basin Plan will modify: (i) the acute (one-hour average), and (ii) the chronic (30-day average) freshwater ammonia objectives in Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan. The proposed water quality objectives for ammonia would take into account

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differences that affect the toxicity of ammonia between water bodies that have different beneficial uses.

The 2013 U.S. EPA ammonia criteria uses a different temperature threshold for fish early life stage (ELS). Due to this change, fish ELS would be presumably present in all streams in the Los Angeles Region and must be protected at all times of the year. Therefore, a new determination of where ELS are present would also be proposed.

## **II. MEETING DATE AND ACCESSIBILITY**

The Los Angeles Water Board will hold a virtual CEQA scoping meeting to consider the potential environmental impacts of amending the Basin Plan to update freshwater ammonia objectives based on 2013 U.S. EPA Aquatic Life Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Ammonia – Freshwater.

**Thursday, November 17, 2022**  
**Time: 2:00 PM**  
**via Video and Teleconference (Zoom)**  
**no physical meeting location**

Please register to attend the public meeting on:

<https://waterboards.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0scu2vrzMsH9Ei8eA-ZcUFiH2RfJ72ZiEi>

In the Zoom registration form, please fill out your name, email and organization. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

## **III. FUTURE NOTIFICATIONS**

Any person desiring to receive future notices from the Los Angeles Water Board regarding the proposed amendment must sign up for the Los Angeles Water Board's *Basin Planning – Regional Basin Plan Amendments* email subscription list at: [Email List Subscription Form | Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board \(ca.gov\)](#)

## **IV. LOS ANGELES WATER BOARD STAFF CONTACTS**

For additional information regarding this proposed action, please contact Dr. Stefani Daryanto at [Stefani.Daryanto@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Stefani.Daryanto@Waterboards.ca.gov) or 213-576-6763.