



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region



Linda S. Adams
Cal/EPA Secretary

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Renee A. Purdy
Chief, Regional Programs
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

DATE: January 19, 2010

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF APRIL 1, 2010 BOARD HEARING ON THE 2008-10 TRIENNIAL REVIEW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) will hold a public hearing on the 2008-2010 Triennial Review to consider and adopt a list of the highest priority issues regarding water quality standards for the Los Angeles Region, to be addressed during the current review period. The California Water Code section 13240 and the federal Clean Water Act section 303(c) require periodic review of water quality standards contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan). This process is known as a triennial review. During a triennial review, possible revisions to the Basin Plan are prioritized and implemented through future Basin Plan amendments over the course of a three-year period, based upon available resources. The Staff Report and tentative Board Resolution are available on the website of the Regional Board at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/index.shtml.

The Board will take formal action to approve a list of selected projects to address during the current review period. Any person may present relevant statements or arguments. Oral presentations should be summarized in writing to the extent possible. If necessary, time limitations on presentations may be imposed. Written comments must be received by the Regional Board Staff no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 5, 2010. Written comments should be submitted electronically to rb4triennial@waterboards.ca.gov. Failure to comply with these requirements is grounds for the Regional Board to refuse to admit the proposed written comment or exhibit into evidence (California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Section 649.4). Where electronic submittal is not feasible, comments should be submitted to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, California 90013

ATTN: Dr. Ginachi Amah

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

For additional information, contact Dr. Ginachi Amah at (213) 576-6685 or gamah@waterboards.ca.gov. The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Theresa Rodgers at (213) 576-6789 at least five working days prior to the meeting.

Background on the Triennial Review

Both State and federal laws mandate the periodic review, and if necessary, update of Basin Plans. Federal law [CWA section 303(c)(1)] requires that a State's water quality standards be reviewed every three years – a process known as a triennial review. The primary purpose of a triennial review is to review water quality standards and take public comment on issues the Regional Board should address in the future through the Basin Plan amendment process. The triennial review process may or may not result in amendments to the Basin Plan over the course of the 3-year review cycle. The decision on whether or not to proceed with a proposed Basin Plan amendment is only made after the Regional Board reviews the technical and legal considerations associated with an issue and determines that development of a Basin Plan amendment is supported by evidence and appropriate.

The triennial review occurs in three phases. During the first phase, the Regional Board reviews water quality standards and identifies issues for possible Basin Plan amendments. In the second phase, the Regional Board prioritizes the standards-related issues that will be further researched and addressed through subsequent Basin Plan amendments. Finally, during the third phase, the Regional Board develops projects addressing these issues and adopts any resulting changes to the Basin Plan as individual Basin Plan amendments over the course of the three-year review period. Public input is a key component of each phase. Stakeholder input is solicited on issues of concern, on prioritization, and during the development of each individual Basin Plan amendment. The triennial review process may ultimately result in some amendments to the Basin Plan to adopt or modify water quality standards and implementation provisions.

The last triennial review was conducted from 2005-2007. The current triennial review began in the fall of 2008. On September 25, 2008, Regional Board staff sent out a solicitation letter to interested parties requesting data and information on water quality standards and other Basin Planning issues that they felt should be addressed for the Los Angeles Region, during the review. The comment submission deadline was November 10, 2008. Regional Board staff received 68 comment letters representing various cities, counties, and coalitions; industry and agricultural interests; environmental organizations; water and sanitation districts; and private citizens. Stakeholder issues of concern contained in these comment letters were reviewed and summarized. A separate set of issues, which reflected staff recommendations, was also compiled. These issues were selected based on outstanding issues from the 2005-2007 Triennial Review priorities list. The fall solicitation and the reconsideration of previous priorities constituted phase I of this triennial review period.

On March 2, 2009 Regional Board staff noticed a public workshop to all interested persons. The notice was also posted on the Regional Board's website and published in the Los Angeles Times and the Ventura County Star on March 12, 2009 and March 14, 2009, respectively. The workshop was held on April 2, 2009, during a regularly scheduled Regional Board meeting, with

the purpose of providing the public and the Regional Board members an opportunity to discuss and begin to identify priority Basin Planning issues to be addressed during the current triennial review period. Staff presented the Regional Board with issues to be prioritized, which included those submitted by stakeholders as well as those identified by Regional Board staff. All stakeholders were provided the opportunity to present their top three priorities at the workshop. The Board was asked for guidance on which projects to select, taking into consideration the available staff resources.

Regional Board members were asked to consider a number of factors in determining projects to be carried forward. These included whether the project:

- (i) Ensures protection of water quality and beneficial uses
- (ii) Addresses and is consistent with legal requirements
- (iii) Facilitates implementation of other Board programs
- (iv) Provides regulatory flexibility
- (v) Improves the clarity of the Basin Plan
- (vi) Addresses concerns/needs of Board staff, EPA and/or stakeholders

Based on these considerations, the Regional Board indicated their preferences regarding which issues should be addressed. This was the second phase of this Triennial Review period, which will close upon the adoption of a resolution identifying the specific projects to be further considered during this cycle, at a public hearing scheduled for April 1, 2010.

