

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS  
NOVEMBER 8, 2017**

**ITEM 7**

**SUBJECT**

LOS ANGELES RIVER EXISTING AND FUTURE CONDITIONS: INSTREAM FLOW NEEDS

**DISCUSSION**

Most of the dry season flows in the Los Angeles River (LA River) are comprised of discharges from wastewater treatment facilities and urban runoff. A number of currently proposed and future projects, including multiple proposed recycled water projects, storm water capture/low impact development programs, river revitalization planning efforts, groundwater replenishment projects, and others, if implemented, could reduce flows in coming years.

This informational item will provide information on the demands for the limited supply of water in the LA River watershed, and how this is related to beneficial uses in the river. The item will present ideas to establish a base flow in the future to maintain habitat, recreational, municipal and ecological beneficial uses.

The Division of Water Rights (Division) is currently processing Wastewater Change Petitions (WWCPs) for two wastewater treatment facilities operated by the Cities of Burbank and Glendale that would reduce discharges to the LA River. The Division is responsible for administering WWCPs in accordance with Water Code Section 1211 for any wastewater projects that would reduce discharges in a watercourse. Where applicable, WWCPs must be approved by the State Water Board, in conjunction with NPDES Permits and Recycled Water permits, before recycled water projects may be implemented.

Flows needed to protect natural resources is an important issue in several other southern California streams, including the Santa Ana River and San Gabriel River. This information item provides an opportunity to better understand the effects of recycled water projects and other projects that would reduce streamflow, while continuing to expand recycled water use throughout southern California and the State.

**POLICY ISSUE**

The State Water Board's interest is to provide an update on the cumulative flow effects of various projects on the LA River and needs to balance various beneficial uses of the river. This is an information item only and no decisions will be made.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None. This is an information item only and no decisions will be made.

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None. This is an information item only and no decisions will be made.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

None. This is an information item only and no decisions will be made.

State Water Board action for this information item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal 5 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to improve transparency and accountability by ensuring that Water Board goals and actions are clear and accessible.