



Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: LB Nye, Ph.D.
Section Manager
Regional Programs

DATE: September 7, 2022

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON METHODS OF SETTING TARGETS FOR BACTERIA IN TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDLS) IN THE LOS ANGELES REGION

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board) will hold a public workshop to discuss methods of setting targets for bacteria in TMDLs in the Los Angeles Region. The public workshop will be held on:

Wednesday, September 21, 2022
9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
via Video, Teleconference, and YouTube Livestreaming

Please bring the above information to the attention of any persons known to you who may be interested in this matter.

I. BACKGROUND

The Los Angeles Water Board has established TMDLs for fecal-indicating bacteria in order to protect human health in recreational waters. TMDLs addressing bacteria in the Los Angeles Region have been established using a reference system/antidegradation approach which ensures that bacteriological water quality is at least as good as that of a reference system and that no degradation of existing water quality is permitted where existing water quality is better than that of the selected reference system. Bacteria TMDLs using the reference system/antidegradation approach include the Santa Monica Bay bacteria TMDL, the Los Angeles River Bacteria TMDL, and the Malibu Creek Bacteria TMDL among others. These TMDLs were developed using the single sample maximum and geometric mean objectives for bacteria in effect when the TMDLs were established.

With the reference system/antidegradation approach, the TMDLs established an allowable frequency of exceedances of the single sample maximum objectives, established an allowable number of exceedance days of the single sample maximum objectives, and required attainment of the geometric mean objectives at all times.

JAMES STAHL, ACTING CHAIR | RENEE PURDY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On August 7, 2018, the State Water Board adopted the Statewide Bacteria Provisions which included bacteria objectives of a statistical threshold value (STV) and geometric mean. The Statewide Bacteria Provisions became effective on March 22, 2019.

On March 10, 2022, the Los Angeles Water Board adopted the Los Cerritos Channel and Estuary, Alamitos Bay, and Colorado Lagoon Bacteria TMDL which was the first bacteria TMDL in the Los Angeles Region based on the Statewide Bacteria Provisions. This bacteria TMDL has a multi-part numeric target based on the geometric mean and STV water quality objectives.

Due to the difference in the expression of the STV objectives in the Statewide Bacteria Provisions as compared to the prior single sample maximum objectives in used in previous bacteria TMDLs, the reference system approach was not used in the Los Cerritos Channel and Estuary, Alamitos Bay, and Colorado Lagoon bacteria TMDL.

The adopted Staff Report, Resolution and Basin Plan amendment for the Los Cerritos Channel and Estuary, Alamitos Bay, and Colorado Lagoon bacteria TMDL approach include more detailed discussion of the approaches for bacteria TMDLs and are available on the Los Angeles Water Board's website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/tmdl/bpa_details.php?id=141

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

This workshop will address the Statewide Bacteria Provisions developed per the U.S. EPA 2012 Recreational Criteria and discuss with interested stakeholders why the reference system approach was not used in the Los Cerritos Channel and Estuary, Alamitos Bay, and Colorado Lagoon Bacteria TMDL. The discussion will focus on: stakeholders comments and issues of concern shared at the at the public hearing to consider adoption of the Los Cerritos Channel and Estuary, Alamitos Bay, and Colorado Lagoon bacteria TMDL held on March 10, 2022, the applicability of the Los Cerritos Channel and Estuary, Alamitos Bay, and Colorado Lagoon bacteria TMDL approach to future bacteria TMDLs in the Los Angeles Region and; the applicability of the Los Cerritos Channel and Estuary, Alamitos Bay, and Colorado Lagoon bacteria TMDL approach for revisions to existing bacteria TMDLs in the Los Angeles Region.

III. WORKSHOP FORMAT

This workshop will be conducted in an active dialog format. This workshop will include a Los Angeles Water Board staff presentation, and a question and comment segment. Stakeholders who share similar comments/issues of concern are encouraged to present their comments/issues collaboratively at the workshop to allow adequate time to discuss shared concerns.

IV. HOW TO REGISTER AND JOIN THE MEETING

Please register in advance for this workshop via the Zoom registration link:

https://waterboards.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RvgLPbc0RuWTJFK3HfcWUA

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

Please join the Zoom Meeting at least 15 minutes before the meeting start time to resolve any technical issues. The meeting will start promptly at 9:30 am.

YouTube: This workshop is also available to watch live using the YouTube link below:

<https://youtu.be/suU9csj7Otc>

If unable to watch using the link above, you can find the live stream on the “Los Angeles Water Quality Control Board” YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVV42bA6gFvxvn_byRVQ8-Q

Please contact Dr. Kangshi Wang at (213) 576-6780 or kangshi.wang@waterboards.ca.gov if you have any questions regarding this workshop.