



Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: LB Nye, PhD
Regional Programs Manager

DATE: July 11, 2023

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Scoping Meeting for Proposed Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region to Establish a Site-Specific Water Quality Objective for Chloride in Reach 6 of the Los Angeles River

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) is developing an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) to establish a site-specific water quality objective for chloride in the Los Angeles River upstream of the Sepulveda Flood Control Basin (Reach 6). Los Angeles Water Board staff will conduct a stakeholder kickoff meeting to solicit comments on the site-specific chloride objectives. In addition, pursuant to California Public Resources Code section 21083.9 and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) section 21080.5, Los Angeles Water Board staff will conduct a CEQA scoping meeting to solicit comments on the scope and content of the substitute environmental documents (SED) supporting the amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan). Scoping is helpful to identify the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and environmental impacts to be analyzed in the SED. The scoping meeting will consist of a presentation regarding the development of the proposed amendment and an opportunity for meeting participants to provide oral comments.

The stakeholder kickoff and CEQA scoping meeting will be held virtually on:

Wednesday, July 26, 2023
Time: 2:00 PM
No physical meeting location

How to register and join the meeting

Please register for this meeting using the zoom link below:

<https://waterboards.zoom.us/j/95448388325>

NORMA CAMACHO, CHAIR | SUSANA ARREDONDO, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

320 West 4th Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90013 | www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles

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.

Individuals requiring special accommodation are requested to contact Rosie Villar at 213-576-6611 or Rosie.Villar@Waterboards.ca.gov by **July 18, 2023**.

Background

The Los Angeles Water Board's Water Quality Control Plan (known as the Basin Plan) includes water quality objectives designed to protect the beneficial uses of all waters in the Los Angeles region. The Los Angeles Water Board must formally amend the Basin Plan to incorporate new water quality objectives or revise existing objectives.

As of 1994, the water quality objective for chloride in the Los Angeles River was 150 mg/L. In 1997, at the request of the wastewater treatment plants in the region, the Los Angeles Water Board amended the Basin Plan to increase the chloride water quality objective from 150 mg/L to 190 mg/L based on the baseline levels of chloride in the water supply plus a chloride loading factor for reaches of the Los Angeles River below the Sepulveda Flood Control Basin. Reaches above the Sepulveda Flood Control Basin were not included in the 1997 amendment because there were no wastewater treatment plants in those reaches at the time.

The Tapia Water Reclamation Facility (Tapia WRF) is a wastewater treatment plant that discharges tertiary-treated wastewater to Malibu Creek and the Los Angeles River. Until 1999, the Tapia WRF only discharged to Malibu Creek, but after 1999, the Board permitted the Tapia WRF to discharge into Dry Canyon Creek, a tributary of Los Angeles River Reach 6. The Los Angeles Water Board prescribed a chloride effluent limit of 190 mg/L for the new discharge.

In 2017, a review of the Basin Plan led to the clarification that the 190 mg/L chloride water quality objective was not applicable to the Tapia WRF's discharge. Therefore, the Los Angeles Water Board adopted Order No. R4-2017-0124, requiring the Tapia WRF to achieve a chloride effluent limit of 150 mg/L or to conduct research to support the development of a site-specific chloride objective for Los Angeles River Reach 6. That research has now been completed.

Project Description

The Los Angeles Water Board is proposing a Basin Plan amendment, based on the research conducted by the Tapia WRF, to establish a site-specific chloride objective of 190 mg/L in the Los Angeles River upstream of the Sepulveda Flood Control Basin (Reach 6). This chloride objective is the same water quality objective that applies in further

downstream reaches of the Los Angeles River. The proposed chloride objective is fully protective of beneficial uses in this waterbody.

Project Location

The proposed Basin Plan amendment will apply to the Los Angeles River and tributaries upstream of the Sepulveda Flood Control Basin (Reach 6 of the Los Angeles River).

Next Steps

Pursuant to CEQA, the Los Angeles Water Board will be the Lead Agency and will prepare a Substitute Environmental Document (SED) for the proposed Basin Plan amendment.

Future notices regarding this project will be circulated via the basin planning email notification list, *Gov Delivery*. If you are not already a member of this list, please go to the Los Angeles Water Board's email list subscription at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/, select "RB4-Los Angeles Region", enter your contact information, and select "Basin Planning – Regional Basin Plan Amendments" to subscribe.

For additional information regarding this proposed action, please contact Hope Sexton at Hope.Sexton@Waterboards.ca.gov or 213-576-6787.