



**Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board**

**TO:** Interested Persons

**FROM:** Renee Purdy *Renee Purdy*  
Section Chief, Regional Programs

**DATE:** February 19, 2013

**SUBJECT:** NOTICE OF PROPOSED NON-REGULATORY AMENDMENTS TO ADMINISTRATIVELY UPDATE CHAPTER 3: "WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES" OF THE BASIN PLAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of proposed non-regulatory amendments to administratively update Chapter 3 "Water Quality Objectives" of the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region* (Basin Plan) by incorporating the language of previously adopted Basin Plan amendments, updated water quality objective tables that reflect current Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, as well as updating the water quality objectives table for groundwater basins and sub-basins to reflect the changes in basin grouping and nomenclature that was part of the administrative update to Chapter 2 of the Basin Plan. The goal of this action is to bring Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan up to date by physically including all amendments to this chapter that have been adopted and approved since the current Basin Plan was adopted in 1994. The incorporation of the language of previously adopted Basin Plan amendments, the updates to the water quality objectives tables to reflect current MCLs, and the revisions to the groupings and nomenclature of the groundwater basins and sub-basins are non-regulatory administrative updates and simply serve to enhance the utility of the Basin Plan. The draft Staff Report, tentative Resolution and the language of previously adopted amendments to Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan along with the updated tables are available on the Regional Board's website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/)

***The Public Hearing will be held on  
Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at:***

***Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
700 North Alameda Street  
Los Angeles, California***

The Regional Board will be asked to take formal action on the proposed amendments to administratively update Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan. Any person may present relevant statements or arguments. Please be advised that comments concerning the appropriateness of any water quality objective or implementation provision, or any previously adopted Basin Plan amendment are not relevant to this action and will not be accepted or responded to. Comments

MARIA MEHRANIAN, CHAIR | SAMUEL UNGER, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

320 West 4th St., Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90013 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles)

shall be limited to the proposed administrative updates to Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan. Written comments must be received by the Regional Board staff no later than 12:00 p.m. on **April 8, 2013**. Written comments should be submitted electronically to [gamah@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:gamah@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 (Cal. Code of Regs. 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. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, California 90013  
ATTN: Dr. Ginachi Amah

Interested persons may also present oral comments to the Regional Board at the hearing. Oral presentations should be summarized in writing to the extent possible. Time limitations on oral presentations will be imposed.

For additional information, contact Dr. Ginachi Amah at (213) 576-6685 or [gamah@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto: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 Administrative Update of Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan**

The current Basin Plan was adopted by the Regional Board on June 13, 1994, and approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) on November 17, 1994 and by the State Office of Administrative Law on February 23, 1995. Since then, a number of Basin Plan amendments have been adopted that have yet to be integrated into the current Basin Plan.

An administrative update of the Basin Plan was identified as a priority project to be addressed during the 2008-2010 triennial review (Resolution No. R10-001). The administrative update is being conducted in phases. To date, Chapters 2 and 7 have been administratively updated. The current proposed amendments cover the administrative update of Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan, which contains the region's water quality objectives as well as their implementation provisions.

The proposed amendments incorporate the language of sixteen previously adopted amendments to water quality objectives in Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan. Of these, there are

- (i) four amendments to the ammonia objectives (Regional Board Resolution Nos. R02-011, R04-022, R05-014, and R07-005);
- (ii) four amendments to the bacteria water quality objectives (Regional Board Resolution Nos. R01-018, R02-022, and R10-005, and State Board Resolution No. 2005-0015);
- (iii) four amendments to the mineral quality objectives (Regional Board Resolution Nos. R97-002, R03-015, R06-003, and R08-012);
- (iv) three amendments to the objectives for Floating Material and Solids, Suspended, or Settleable Materials (Regional Board Resolution Nos. R03-015, R06-003, and R08-012), and
- (v) one amendment to incorporate implementation provisions, specifically a water effects ratio, for copper (Regional Board Resolution No. R06-022).

One previously adopted amendment to Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan is not being incorporated into the Basin Plan as part of this administrative update. In January 2003, the Regional Board adopted Resolution No. 2003-001, an amendment to the Basin Plan that incorporated language authorizing compliance schedules in NPDES permits. In April 2008, the State Water Board adopted Resolution No. 2008-0025, which established a state-wide *Policy for Compliance Schedules in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits*. State Water Board Resolution No. 2008-0025 superseded all existing provisions authorizing compliance schedules in Basin Plans, including Regional Board Resolution No. 2003-001, except for existing compliance schedule provisions in TMDL implementation plans that are in effect as of the effective date of Resolution No. 2008-0025. As the Basin Plan amendment language in Regional Board Resolution No. 2003-001 has no regulatory effect, that language is not being included in the Basin Plan as part of this administrative update. An explanation to this effect is included in Chapter 3 as part of this administrative update.

The proposed amendments also update the water quality objectives in Tables 3-5, 3-6, 3-7, and 3-9 of the Basin Plan to reflect current MCLs specified in provisions of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, which are incorporated by reference into the current (1994) Basin Plan. The incorporation by reference is prospective and includes future changes to the incorporated provisions as they take effect. There have been revisions to the Title 22 provisions since the 1994 Basin Plan adoption, and the proposed update reflects these changes.

Finally, the proposed amendments reconcile the grouping and nomenclature of the groundwater basins and sub-basins contained in the mineral quality objectives table for groundwater (Table 3-10) with the revised groupings and nomenclature resulting from the 2011 administrative update to the beneficial use tables in Chapter 2 of the Basin Plan.

These proposed modifications to Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan are non-regulatory in nature and impose no new regulatory requirements. The purpose of these proposed amendments is to perform an administrative update to Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan as part of a multi-step process of administratively updating the entire Basin Plan (i.e., integrating previously adopted text and tables into the physical document). These proposed amendments do not involve any new changes to water quality objectives and/or their implementation provisions. These non-regulatory changes are intended solely to improve the clarity and convenience of the Basin Plan. Regulatory updates to Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan may be addressed in the future as a separate Regional Board action.