


Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Ginachi Amah, D.Env. 
Water Resources Control Engineer
Basin Planning Program

DATE: March 26, 2012

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP ON THE RE-EVALUATION OF RECREATIONAL USES IN THE ENGINEERED CHANNELS OF THE LOS ANGELES RIVER WATERSHED

This notice is to inform interested persons that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) is conducting a stakeholder workshop on the re-evaluation of recreational uses in the engineered channels within the Los Angeles River watershed. An Informational Workshop will be held on:

Thursday, April 26, 2012 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
at the Junipero Serra Building
Carmel Room, 1st Floor
320 W. 4th Street
Los Angeles, California 90013

(Please allow extra time to pass through the new security measures at the Junipero Serra Building.)

Regional Board Staff will present preliminary results of re-evaluation efforts conducted since fall 2010 and will seek stakeholder input. Staff will also solicit increased stakeholder participation in the re-evaluation process. You may contact Dr. Ginachi Amah at (213) 576-6685 or gamah@waterboards.ca.gov if you have any questions regarding this matter. Please bring the foregoing to the attention of any persons known to you who would be interested in this matter.

Background

The Regional Board recognizes that hydrologic modifications may limit, to varying degrees, the nature and extent of recreational opportunities supported by engineered channels in the Los Angeles Region. At the same time, the Regional Board is aware of various efforts by local jurisdictions, non-profit organizations, and other interested parties to enhance the recreational opportunities in and around such modified streams. In light of this, the Regional Board directed staff to conduct a re-evaluation of recreational uses in waterbodies of this nature throughout the region. The Los Angeles River watershed is the first system to be addressed as part of the re-evaluation.

In September 2010, Regional Board staff conducted a stakeholder workshop to initiate the recreational use re-evaluation project for engineered channels in the Los Angeles River

Watershed. During the workshop staff discussed the components of the re-evaluation, as well as the potential outcomes. Stakeholder participation was solicited in the form of volunteers to plan and participate in monitoring. Since then, Regional Board staff and stakeholders have been involved in various aspects of the RECUR project, including:

(1) Field Reconnaissance - conducted by Regional Board staff and County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works and Flood Control District. The resulting report may be obtained at <ftp://swrcb2a.waterboards.ca.gov/pub/rwqcb4/pubupload/Field%20Reconnaissance%20Report.pdf>

(2) A web-based survey - developed by staff from Councilman Reyes' Office (Council District 1, City of Los Angeles), the public television station - KCET, and the Regional Board, available at: <http://www.kcet.org/socal/departures/production-notes/la-river-2/how-do-you-use-the-los-angeles-river.html>

(3) Coordinated field monitoring and surveys - conducted by staff and volunteers from the Council for Watershed Health, Friends of the Los Angeles River, City of Burbank, Generation Water, and the Regional Board.

(4) Flow measurements in engineered channels - conducted by staff from the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works and Flood Control District.

Other stakeholders have participated in this project as members of the Coordinated Monitoring Committee. This recreational uses re-evaluation is scheduled to continue through December 2012.