

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Renee A. Purdy *RAP*
Chief, Regional Programs
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

DATE: September 2, 2015

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF NOVEMBER 5, 2015 BOARD HEARING ON THE 2014-2016
TRIENNIAL REVIEW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board) will hold a public hearing on the 2014-2016 Triennial Review to consider and adopt a list of the highest priority issues regarding water quality standards for the Los Angeles Region, to be addressed during the current review period.

**A Public Hearing will be held on November 5, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, California**

The California Water Code section 13240 and the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) section 303(c) require periodic review of water quality standards contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan). This process is known as a triennial review. During a triennial review, possible revisions to the Basin Plan are prioritized and implemented through future Basin Plan amendments over the course of a three-year period, based upon available resources. The Staff Report and tentative Board Resolution are available on the website of the Los Angeles Water Board at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/

The Board will take formal action to approve a list of selected projects to address during the current review period. Any person may present relevant statements or arguments. Oral presentations should be summarized in writing to the extent possible. Time limitations on oral presentations will be imposed. **Written comments must be received by the Los Angeles Water Board staff no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 2, 2015.** Written comments should be submitted electronically to losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line "Triennial Review" with a copy to Celine.Gallon@waterboards.ca.gov. Failure to comply with these requirements is grounds for the Los Angeles Water Board to refuse to admit the proposed written comment or exhibit into evidence (California Code of Regulations, 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. 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, California 90013

ATTN: Céline Gallon

For additional information, contact Dr. Céline Gallon at (213) 576-6784 or Celine.Gallon@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 Triennial Review

Both State and federal laws mandate the periodic review, and if necessary, update of Basin Plans. Federal law (CWA section 303(c)(1)) requires that a State's water quality standards be reviewed every three years – a process known as a triennial review. The primary purpose of a triennial review is to review water quality standards and take public comment on issues the Los Angeles Water Board should address in the future through the Basin Plan amendment process. The triennial review process may or may not result in amendments to the Basin Plan over the course of the 3-year review cycle. The decision on whether or not to proceed with a proposed Basin Plan amendment is only made after the Los Angeles Water Board reviews the technical and legal considerations associated with an issue and determines that development of a Basin Plan amendment is supported by evidence and appropriate.

The triennial review occurs in three phases. During the first phase, the Los Angeles Water Board reviews water quality standards and identifies issues for possible Basin Plan amendments. In the second phase, the Los Angeles Water Board prioritizes the standards-related issues that will be further researched and addressed through subsequent Basin Plan amendments. Finally, during the third phase, the Los Angeles Water Board develops projects addressing these issues and adopts any resulting changes to the Basin Plan as individual Basin Plan amendments over the course of the three-year review period. Public input is a key component of each phase. Stakeholder input is solicited on issues of concern, on prioritization, and during the development of each individual Basin Plan amendment. The triennial review process may ultimately result in some amendments to the Basin Plan to adopt or modify water quality standards and implementation provisions.

The last triennial review was conducted from 2011 - 2013. The current triennial review began in the fall of 2014 with an internal review of the Basin Plan and discussions with Water Board staff. As part of this process, Board staff compiled a list of potential projects based on outstanding issues from the 2011-2013 Triennial Review priorities list and new priorities that have emerged since that time. On January 29, 2015, the Los Angeles Water Board sent out a solicitation letter to interested persons requesting data and information on water quality standards and other Basin Planning issues that they felt should be addressed for the Los Angeles Region, during the review. The comment submission deadline was March 2, 2015. The Los Angeles Water Board received six comment letters. On July 22, 2015, Board staff held a public workshop with the purpose of providing the public an opportunity to discuss and begin to identify priority Basin Planning projects to be addressed during the current triennial review period. Staff presented stakeholders with potential projects to be prioritized, which included those submitted by stakeholders as well as those identified by Board staff. All stakeholders were provided the opportunity to present their top three priorities at the workshop, and were also given additional time to submit these priorities in writing after the workshop. The data solicitation, public meeting and identification of potential projects constitute phase I of this triennial review period.

Phase II of the triennial review will conclude after another public comment period and public hearing scheduled for November 5, 2015 at which the Los Angeles Water Board will consider adoption of a resolution identifying the basin planning priorities to be investigated and further considered during the remainder of this triennial review.