


Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF HEARING AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Ginachi Amah, D.Env, P.E.
Basin Planning Program 

DATE: August 29, 2016

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BASIN PLAN TO INCORPORATE A PROGRAM OF IMPLEMENTATION CONSISTING OF STAKEHOLDER-DEVELOPED GROUNDWATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR SALT AND NUTRIENTS IN THE UPPER SANTA CLARA RIVER BASIN.

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board) will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of amendments to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region* (Basin Plan). The purpose of this action is to incorporate a program of implementation consisting of salt and nutrient management measures for the Upper Santa Clara River Basin in Los Angeles County. This action is consistent with State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) Recycled Water Policy requirement for the development of Salt and Nutrient Management Plans for groundwater basins throughout the state.

Background on Salt and Nutrient Management Plans

The Recycled Water Policy is intended to increase the use of recycled water throughout the state thereby promoting sustainable water supplies and reducing local dependence on imported water supplies. In developing the policy, the State Water Board recognized that increased use of recycled water, in conjunction with other applications/discharges, may result in salt and nutrient loads to groundwater basins that could result in exceedances of groundwater quality objectives. Therefore, the Policy contains a requirement that salts and nutrients from all sources be managed on a basin-wide scale or watershed scale through the development of Salt and Nutrient Management Plans.

These plans are to be developed by local water and wastewater entities, together with local salt/nutrient contributing stakeholders, through a collaborative process open to all interested persons, with participation by Regional Water Board staff. The plans are to be completed and proposed to the Regional Water Boards no more than seven years after the effective date of the policy (or by May 14, 2016). The Policy also directs the Regional Water Board to consider incorporating the implementation programs contained in these plans into its Basin Plan within one year of their submission to the Regional Water Board.

The Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) for the Upper Santa Clara River Basin covers six sub-basins within its boundaries: Santa Clara-Mint Canyon, South Fork, Placerita Canyon, Santa Clara-Bouquet and San Francisquito Canyon, Castaic, and Saugus. Stakeholders and interested persons for the Upper Santa Clara River Basin collaborated to develop the SNMP for their basin. Planning efforts were led by a SNMP task force including the Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA), the City of Santa Clarita, the Santa Clarita Water Division (SCWD), Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD), Newhall County Water District (NCWD), San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (SCVSD) and Valencia Water Company (VWC). The SNMP contains all the required elements prescribed by the Recycled Water Policy including considerations of water recycling and stormwater recharge. The plan also presents existing and proposed management measures that are expected to manage groundwater quality and protect groundwater recharge. These stakeholder-developed implementation measures for groundwater quality control are being incorporated into the Los Angeles Region's Basin Plan.

I. HEARING DATE AND LOCATION

The Los Angeles Water Board will hold a public hearing to consider amending the Basin Plan to incorporate a program of implementation consisting of salt and nutrient management measures for the Upper Santa Clara River Basin, after hearing Board staff's presentation and public comments. The Los Angeles Water Board is expected to take formal action on the proposed amendments to the Basin Plan. The Board is scheduled to consider this matter at its regularly scheduled board meeting on:

Date: Thursday, November 10, 2016

Time: 9:00 AM

Place: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Please check the Los Angeles Water Board's website <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/> for the most up-to-date public hearing location as it is subject to change.

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.

II. AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

The Substitute Environmental Document (SED), consisting of a tentative resolution, proposed Basin Plan language, draft staff memorandum, CEQA checklist, and Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) for the Upper Santa Clara River Basin, is available on the Los Angeles Water Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/salt_and_nutrient_management/index.shtml

These documents are also available for inspection and copying between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM at the following address:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Arrangements for file review and/or obtaining copies of documents in the Administrative Record may be made by calling the Los Angeles Water Board at (213) 576-6600. Comments and responses to comments and other subsequent relevant documents will be available online as they are generated.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUBMITTAL OF EVIDENCE

Persons wishing to comment on the tentative resolution, proposed Basin Plan amendments, staff memorandum, SNMP and SED for the Los Angeles Water Board to consider, are invited to submit them in writing.

Any person may present relevant comments on the proposed Basin Plan amendments. To be evaluated and responded to by Board staff, included in the Board's agenda binder, and fully considered by the Board members in advance of the hearing, all written comments must be received by the Board **no later than 5:00 PM on October 13, 2016**. Untimely submittal of written comments will not be accepted or responded to by the Los Angeles Water Board. Failure to comply with these requirements is grounds for the Los Angeles Water Board to refuse to admit the proposed written comment or evidence into the administrative record.

Interested persons are encouraged to submit comments electronically. Send comments by e-mail to: Ginachi.Amah@waterboards.ca.gov. Please indicate in the subject line, "Comment Letter – Incorporation of Salt and Nutrient Management Measures for the Upper Santa Clara River Basin." Written comments submitted through email are requested to be transmitted in Microsoft Word format. Written comments sent by mail should be addressed to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
Attn: Dr. Ginachi Amah
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Interested persons are also invited to attend the hearing and present oral comments. Oral presentations should be summarized in writing to the extent possible. At the discretion of the Chair, time limitations on presentations may be imposed, depending on the number of persons wishing to be heard.

The State Water Board when considering approval of a regional water board's adoption of Basin Plan amendments may refuse to accept any comments that were not timely raised before the regional water board. Therefore, interested persons are strongly encouraged to make all comments on this proposed action to the Los Angeles Water Board before or during the public hearing.

IV. FUTURE NOTIFICATIONS FROM STATE WATER BOARD

Any person desiring to receive future notices from the State Water Board regarding its approval process for the proposed amendments must sign up for the State Water Board's Lyrus list at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml

V. LOS ANGELES WATER BOARD STAFF CONTACTS

For additional information regarding this proposed action, please contact Dr. Ginachi Amah at (213) 576-6685 or Ginachi.Amah@waterboards.ca.gov, or Dr. Celine Gallon at (213) 576-6784 or Celine.Gallon@waterboards.ca.gov.