
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF PROPOSED APPROVAL OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE RIO HONDO / SAN GABRIEL RIVER ENHANCED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) PERMIT (ORDER NO. R4-2012-0175; NPDES PERMIT NO. CAS004001)

<u>DISCHARGER</u>	<u>DISCHARGE LOCATION</u>	<u>RECEIVING WATER</u>
City of Arcadia, City of Bradbury, City of Duarte, City of Monrovia, City of Sierra Madre, County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Flood Control District	MS4 Outfalls within the Los Angeles River Watershed and San Gabriel River Watershed	Los Angeles River San Gabriel River

The Rio Hondo / San Gabriel River Water Quality Group (Group) have been implementing an Enhanced Watershed Management Program (EWMP) pursuant to Part VI.C of the Los Angeles County MS4 Permit (NPDES Permit No. CAS004001; Order No. R4-2012-0175 as amended by State Water Board Order WQ 2015-0075 and Order No. R4-2012-0175-A01).

The Group's EWMP became effective on April 21, 2016 upon its approval by the Los Angeles Water Board. The EWMP was modified on November 21, 2017 to incorporate changes in the program's milestone completion dates.

On March 30, 2018, the Group submitted proposed modifications to its EWMP in the form of a *Revised Enhanced Watershed Management Program* or *rEWMP* (hereinafter referred to as Proposed Revised EWMP). The Proposed Revised EWMP entails extensive and significant modifications to the Group's existing EWMP, including an updated Reasonable Assurance Analysis, changes to watershed control measures, and changes to compliance schedules. Furthermore, and unlike the EWMP that the Group is currently implementing, this Proposed Revised EWMP does not include the City of Azusa as a participating Permittee.

On May 23, 2018, the Los Angeles Water Board provided public notice and a 30-day period to allow for public review and written comment on the Proposed Revised EWMP. The Board received two written comment letters during this review period.

On October 17, 2018, the Los Angeles Water Board sent a letter to the Group which detailed Board staff's comments on the Proposed Revised EWMP and identified issues that needed to be addressed prior to the Board's approval of the EWMP.

On December 17, 2018, the Group submitted a revised version of its Proposed Revised EWMP along with responses to Board staff's comments.

On the basis of staff review and other relevant data and information, the Los Angeles Water Board tentatively proposes to conditionally approve the Proposed Revised EWMP including the modifications detailed in the December 17, 2018 submittal.

PUBLIC HEARING DATE AND LOCATION

The Los Angeles Water Board is scheduled to hold a public hearing to receive comments and evidence, and consider approval of, the Proposed Revised EWMP at its regularly scheduled meeting on:

Date: March 14, 2019
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Port of Long Beach Headquarters
4801 Airport Plaza Drive
Long Beach, CA 90815

Interested persons are invited to attend the hearing and present oral comments. Oral comments are generally limited to 3 minutes each, but time limitations may be adjusted at the discretion of the Chair, depending on the number of persons wishing to be heard. Interested persons seeking more than 3 minutes to present oral comments at the hearing must contact the Los Angeles Water Board staff contact identified below **no later than March 4, 2019** to request additional time.

Please check the Board's website (<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/>) for the most up-to-date public hearing date and location as they are subject to change. If there is not a quorum on the scheduled date of the public hearing, all items will be automatically continued to the next scheduled meeting. A continuance of the hearing will not automatically extend any deadlines set forth in this notice.

SCOPE OF HEARING

The requirements of the Los Angeles County MS4 Permit are not at issue before the Los Angeles Water Board in this proceeding. Evidence or argument that challenges the validity of those requirements, or any aspects of them, will not be permitted nor responded to. The only matter before the Board is consideration of modifications to the Rio Hondo / San Gabriel River Enhanced Watershed Management Program, the scope of which is as described above.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

The draft tentative approval of the modifications to the Rio Hondo / San Gabriel River Water Quality Group's EWMP and other information and documents relied upon are posted on the Los Angeles Water Board's website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/stormwater/municipal/index.html#2

and

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/stormwater/municipal/watershed_management/san_gabriel/rio_hondo/index.html

These documents are also available for inspection and copying between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the following address:

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

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

WRITTEN COMMENTS AND SUBMITTAL OF EVIDENCE

Persons wishing to comment on the draft tentative approval of the modifications to the Rio Hondo / San Gabriel River Water Quality Group's EWMP, or submit evidence for the Los Angeles Water Board to consider, are invited to submit them in writing. To be evaluated and responded to by Los Angeles Water Board staff, included in the Los Angeles Water Board's agenda binder, and fully considered by the Los Angeles Water Board members in advance of the hearing, all written comments and evidence must be received at the Los Angeles Water Board office by **5:00 PM on February 28, 2019**. 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 pursuant to section 648.4, Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations.

Interested persons are encouraged to submit comments electronically. Send comments by email to: losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov. Please indicate in the subject line, "Comment Letter – Draft Tentative Approval of RH/SGR EWMP Modifications." 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: Chris Lopez
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS PROHIBITED

Parties and interested persons are forbidden from engaging in *ex parte* communications regarding this matter with members of the Los Angeles Water Board. An *ex parte* communication is a communication not authorized in the California Government Code, to a Los Angeles Water Board member from any person, about a pending matter, that occurs in the absence of other parties and without notice and opportunity for the parties to respond. The California Government Code generally prohibits the board members from engaging in *ex parte* communications during permitting, enforcement, or other "quasi-adjudicatory" matters. The Los Angeles Water Board members may not discuss the draft tentative approval with any person, except during the public hearing described in this notice.

LOS ANGELES WATER BOARD STAFF CONTACT

Communications with the Los Angeles Water Board prior to the hearing should be directed to:

Chris Lopez
Phone: (213) 576-6674
Email: Chris.Lopez@waterboards.ca.gov.

Date: January 29, 2019