

Attachment A to Resolution No. 03-009

**Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan – Los Angeles Region
to Incorporate the
Los Angeles River Nitrogen Compounds and Related Effects TMDL**

Adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region on July 10, 2003.

Amendments

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Chapter 7. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

Los Angeles River Nitrogen Compounds and Related Effects TMDL

This TMDL was adopted by:

The Regional Water Quality Control Board on July 10, 2003.

This TMDL was approved by:

The State Water Resources Control Board on November 19, 2003.

The Office of Administrative Law on February 27, 2004.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on March 18, 2004.

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Revised: October 9, 2003

Table 7-8.1. LOS ANGELES RIVER NITROGEN COMPOUNDS AND RELATED EFFECTS TMDL: Elements

Element	Los Angeles River Nitrogen Compounds and Related Effects TMDL
Problem Statement	Reaches of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries were listed as impaired for nitrogen compounds (ammonia, nitrate, and nitrate) and related effects such as algae, pH, odor, and scum on the 2002 303(d) list. These reaches were listed because numeric and narrative water quality objectives for nitrogen compounds and related effects were exceeded, thereby impairing warm, freshwater, and wildlife habitats, and recreation beneficial uses.
Numeric Target <i>(Interpretation of the numeric water quality objective, used to calculate the load allocations)</i>	<p>Numeric targets for this TMDL are listed as follows:</p> <p>a) Total ammonia as nitrogen (NH₃-N) Numeric targets are dependent on temperature and pH of receiving water. Based on the last three years of temperature and pH data, the ammonia numeric targets for receiving waters correspondent to major discharge points are provided below:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Receiving water correspondent to major discharge point</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>One-hour average</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thirty-day average</i></p> <p>Los Angeles River Reach 5 (within Sepulveda Basin) - Donald C. Tillman WRP 4.7 mg/L 1.6 mg/L</p> <p>Los Angeles River Reach 3 (Riverside Dr. to Figueroa St.) - Los Angeles/ Glendale WRP 8.7 mg/L 2.4 mg/L</p> <p>Burbank Western Channel - Burbank WRP 10.1 mg/L 2.3 mg/L</p> <p>b) Nitrate-nitrogen and nitrite-nitrogen</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Constituent</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thirty-day average</i></p> <p>Nitrate-nitrogen (NO₃-N) 8 mg/L</p> <p>Nitrite-nitrogen (NO₂-N) 1 mg/L</p> <p>Nitrate-nitrogen plus nitrite-nitrogen (NO₃-N + NO₂-N) 8 mg/L</p> <p>Numeric targets to address narrative objectives required to protect warm</p>

Element	Los Angeles River Nitrogen Compounds and Related Effects TMDL
	freshwater and wildlife habitats are intended to implement the narrative objectives and may be revised based on the results of monitoring and studies conducted pursuant to the implementation plan.
Source Analysis	The principal source of nitrogen compounds to the Los Angeles River is discharges from the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (WRP), the Los Angeles-Glendale WRP, and the Burbank WRP. During dry weather period, the major POTWs contribute 84.1% of the total dry weather nitrogen load. Urban runoff, stormwater, and groundwater discharge may also contribute nitrate loads. Further evaluation of these sources is set forth in the Implementation Plan.
Linkage Analysis	Linkage between nutrient sources and the instream water quality was established through hydrodynamic and water quality models. The Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code 1-D was used to model the hydrodynamic characteristics of the Los Angeles River and the Water Quality Analysis Simulation Program was used to model water quality. Additional studies were conducted to develop the residence time and determine the nutrient uptake rates by algae.
Wasteload Allocations (for point sources)	<p>1. Major point sources:</p> <p>a) Total ammonia as nitrogen (NH₃-N):</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>POTW</i> <i>One-hour average WLA</i> <i>Thirty-day average WLA</i></p> <p>Donald C. Tillman WRP 4.2 mg/L 1.4 mg/L</p> <p>Los Angeles-Glendale WRP 7.8 mg/L 2.2 mg/L</p> <p>Burbank WRP 9.1 mg/L 2.1 mg/L</p> <p>b) Nitrate-nitrogen (NO₃-N), nitrite-nitrogen (NO₂-N), and Nitrate-nitrogen plus nitrite-nitrogen (NO₃-N + NO₂-N):</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Constituent</i> <i>Thirty-day average WLA *</i></p> <p>NO₃-N 7.2 mg/L</p>

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	<p>NO₂-N 0.9 mg/L</p> <p>NO₃-N + NO₂-N 7.2 mg/L</p> <p>*Receiving water monitoring is required on a weekly basis to ensure compliance with the water quality objective.</p> <p>2. <u>Minor point sources:</u></p> <p>Waste loads are allocated to minor point sources enrolled under NPDES or WDR permits including but not limited to Tapia WRP, Whittier Narrows WRP, Los Angeles Zoo WRP, industrial and construction stormwater, and municipal storm water and urban runoff from municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s):</p> <p>a) Ammonia wasteload allocations (WLAs) for minor point sources are listed below by receiving waters:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Water Body</i> <i>One-hour average WLA</i> <i>Thirty-day average WLA</i></p> <p>Los Angeles River above Los Angeles-Glendale WRP (LAG) 4.7 mg/L 1.6 mg/L</p> <p>Los Angeles River below LAG 8.7 mg/L 2.4 mg/L</p> <p>Los Angeles Tributaries 10.1 mg/L 2.3 mg/L</p> <p>b) WLAs for nitrate-nitrogen, nitrite-nitrogen, and nitrate-nitrogen plus nitrite-nitrogen for minor discharges are listed below:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Constituent</i> <i>Thirty-day average WLA</i></p> <p>NO₃-N 8.0 mg/L</p> <p>NO₂-N 1.0 mg/L</p> <p>NO₃-N + NO₂-N 8.0 mg/L</p>
Load Allocation <i>(for nonpoint</i>	The Source Assessment indicates that nitrogen loads from nonpoint sources are negligible compared to loading from point sources and their contribution

Element	Los Angeles River Nitrogen Compounds and Related Effects TMDL									
sources)	<p><u>is adequately accounted for in the margin of safety.</u> Consequently, load allocations will not be developed unless it is determined they are necessary after load reductions are effected through implementation of the wasteload allocations. Additional monitoring is included in the implementation plan to verify the nitrogen nonpoint source contributions.</p>									
Implementation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refer to Table 7-8.2 2. The Implementation Plan includes upgrades to the WRPs discharging to Los Angeles River for removal of ammonia, nitrate, and nitrite. At the discretion of the Regional Board, the following interim limits for ammonia, and nitrate plus nitrite will be allowed for major point sources for a period not to exceed 3.5 years from the effective date of this TMDL. Effluent limits for the individual compounds NO₃-N, and NO₂-N are not required during the interim period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="text-align: center;"><i>Interim Limits for NH₃-N</i> <li style="text-align: center;"><i>Total ammonia as Nitrogen</i> <li style="text-align: center;"><i>POTW</i> <li style="text-align: center;"><i>Daily Maximum*</i> <li style="text-align: center;"><i>Monthly Average*</i> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Donald C. Tillman WRP</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">21.7 mg/L</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">21.0 mg/L</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Los Angeles-Glendale WRP</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">19.4 mg/L</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">16.5 mg/L</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Burbank WRP</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">24.1 mg/L</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">22.7 mg/L</td> </tr> </table> <p>*The monthly average and daily maximum interim limits are based on the 95th and 99th percentiles of effluent performance data reported by dischargers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="text-align: center;"><i>Nitrite-nitrogen + Nitrate-nitrogen</i> <li style="text-align: center;"><i>Monthly Average</i> <p style="text-align: center;">8.0 mg/L</p> <p>The Implementation Plan also includes additional studies to evaluate the effectiveness of nitrogen reductions on related effects such as algae growth, odors and scum. Ammonia and nitrate reductions will be regulated through effluent limits prescribed in NPDES permits.</p> 	Donald C. Tillman WRP	21.7 mg/L	21.0 mg/L	Los Angeles-Glendale WRP	19.4 mg/L	16.5 mg/L	Burbank WRP	24.1 mg/L	22.7 mg/L
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Margin of Safety	<p>An explicit margin of safety of 10% of the ammonia, nitrate, nitrite and nitrate + nitrite loads is allocated to address uncertainty in the sources and linkage analyses. In addition, an implicit margin of safety is incorporated</p>									

Element	Los Angeles River Nitrogen Compounds and Related Effects TMDL
	through conservative model assumptions and statistical analysis.
<i>Seasonal Variations and Critical Conditions</i>	The critical condition identified for this TMDL is based on low flow condition. The driest six months of the year are the most critical condition for nutrients because less surface flow is available to dilute effluent discharge.

Table 7-8.2. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE Implementation Tasks	Completion Date
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply interim limits for NH₃-N and NO₃-N + NO₂-N to major Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs). 2. Apply Waste Load Allocations (WLAs) to minor point source dischargers and MS4 permittees. 3. Begin to include monitoring for nitrogen compounds in NPDES permits for minor NPDES dischargers above 0.1 mgd as permits are renewed. 	Effective Date of TMDL
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Submittal of a Monitoring Work Plan by MS4 permittees to estimate nitrogen loadings associated with runoff loads from the storm drain system for approval by the Executive Officer of the Regional Board. The Work Plan will include monitoring for ammonia, nitrate, and nitrite. The Work Plan may include a phased approach wherein the first phase is based on monitoring from the existing mass emission station in the Los Angeles River. The results will be used to calibrate the linkage analysis. The Work Plan will also contain protocol and a schedule for implementing additional monitoring if necessary. The Work Plan will also propose triggers for conducting source identification and implementing BMPs, if necessary. Source identification and BMPs will be in accordance with the requirements of MS4 permits. 	1 year after the Effective Date of TMDL
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Submittal of a Workplan by major NPDES permittees to evaluate the effectiveness of nitrogen reductions on removing impairments from algae odors, scums, and pH for approval by the Executive Officer of the Regional Board. The monitoring program will include instream monitoring of algae, foam, scum, pH, and odors in the Los Angeles River. In addition, groundwater discharge to Los Angeles River will also be analyzed for nutrients to determine the magnitude of these loadings and the need for load allocations. The Workplan will include protocol and schedule for refining numeric targets for nitrogen compounds and related effects such as excessive algae in the Los Angeles River. The Workplan will also contain protocol and a schedule for identification of limiting nutrients. 	1 year after the Effective Date of TMDL
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Submission of a special studies Workplan by the City of Los Angeles to evaluate site-specific objectives for ammonia, nitrate, and nitrite, including the following issues: pH and temperature distribution downstream of the D.C. Tillman WRP to determine the point of compliance for ammonia, establishment of ammonia WLAs based on seasonality. 	1 year after Effective Date of TMDL
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Submission of all results from Task 6, and results from water effects ratio study for ammonia which has been performed by the City of Los Angeles. 	No later than 2.5 years after Effective Date of TMDL.

Table 7-8.2. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE Implementation Tasks	Completion Date
8. Regional Board considers site-specific objectives for ammonia, nitrate, nitrite and nitrite + nitrate and revision of wasteload allocations based on results from Tasks 6 and 7. The Regional Board will consider factors such as seasonal variation, averaging periods, and water effects ratios when determining whether it is appropriate to adopt site-specific objectives for ammonia. If a site specific objective is adopted by the Regional Board, and approved by relevant approving agencies, this TMDL will need to be revised, readopted, and reapproved to reflect the revised water quality objectives.	No later than 3.5 years after Effective Date of TMDL.
9. Interim limits for ammonia and nitrate + nitrite expire and WLAs for ammonia, nitrate, nitrite, and nitrate + nitrite apply to major point sources.	3.5 years after Effective Date of TMDL
10. Complete evaluation of monitoring for nutrient effects and determine need for revising wasteload allocations, including but not limited to establishing new WLAs for other nutrient and related effects such as algal growth	4 years after Effective Date of TMDL
11. Regional Board considers results of Tasks 5 and 10 and revises or establishes WLAs as appropriate.	5 years after Effective Date of TMDL