

**Proposed Amendments**  
to the  
**Water Quality Control Plan – Los Angeles Region**  
for the  
**San Gabriel River (East Fork) Trash TMDL**

Proposed for adoption by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region on October 28, 1999.

**Amendments:**

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Chapter 7. TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads)\*

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San Gabriel River (East Fork) Trash TMDL

**List of Figures, Tables and Inserts**

Add:

Chapter 7. TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads)

Tables

7-1 TMDL Summaries

**Chapter 3. Water Quality Objectives**

Regional Objectives for Inland Surface Waters

Floating Material

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A third paragraph will be added under Floating Material referencing specific guidelines for the San Gabriel River (East Fork). Additional narrative to read: "See additional regulatory guidelines described under the San Gabriel River (East Fork) Trash Total Maximum Daily Load (Chapter 7)."

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\* Underlined text indicates the actual language to be added to existing Basin Plan text.

## **Chapter 7. TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads)**

New Basin Plan language for this chapter is presented below.

## **7. TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads)**

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### ***Introduction***

#### ***Legal Basis and Authority***

Section 303(d)(1)(a) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires that "each state shall identify those waters within its boundaries for which the effluent limitations ... are not stringent enough to implement any water quality standard applicable to such waters." The CWA also requires states to establish a priority ranking for these waters. This list of prioritized impaired waterbodies is known as the 303(d) list. The CWA then requires that Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) be established for waters on the 303(d) list. On California's 1998 303(d) list, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) identified 832 waterbody reaches as water quality impaired. Since this listing, these impaired reaches have been consolidated into 92 "TMDL Analytical Units" in order to better manage and prioritize impaired watersheds for TMDL development.

A consent decree between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Heal the Bay, Inc. and BayKeeper, Inc. was approved on March 22, 1999. This court order directs the USEPA to complete TMDLs for all impaired waters within 12 years. A schedule was established in the consent decree for the completion of the first 29 TMDLs within 7 years. The remaining TMDLs will be scheduled by Regional Board staff within the 12-year period.

The elements of a TMDL are described in 40 CFR 130.2 and 130.7 and Section 303(d) of the CWA, as well as in USEPA guidance documents (e.g., USEPA,

1991). A TMDL is defined as "the sum of the individual waste load allocations for point sources and load allocations for nonpoint sources and natural background" (40 CFR 130.2). Regulations further stipulate that TMDLs must be set at "levels necessary to attain and maintain the applicable narrative and numeric water quality standards with seasonal variations and a margin of safety that takes into account any lack of knowledge concerning the relationship between effluent limitations and water quality" (40 CFR 130.7(c)(1)). The regulations in 40 CFR 130.7 also state that TMDLs shall take into account critical conditions for stream flow, loading and water quality parameters.

Upon establishment of TMDLs by the State or USEPA, the State is required to incorporate the TMDLs along with appropriate implementation measures into the State Water Quality Management Plan (40 CFR 130.6(c)(1), 130.7). This Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan), and applicable statewide plans, serve as the State Water Quality Management Plans governing the watersheds under the jurisdiction of the RWQCB.

Before approval by USEPA or incorporation into the Basin Plan, TMDLs must be subject to public review (40 CFR 130.7). Public review requirements for Basin Plan Amendments are described in Chapter 1 of this document.

### ***TMDL Components***

TMDLs include the following technical components, which provide the analytical basis for the TMDLs.

- **Problem Statement:** A description of the waterbody/watershed setting, beneficial use impairments, and pollutants or stressors causing the impairment.
- **Numeric Targets:** For each stressor addressed in the TMDL, appropriate measurable indicators and associated numeric targets based on numeric or narrative water quality standards, which express the target or desired condition for the existing or potential beneficial uses.
- **Source Analysis:** An assessment of relative contributions of pollutant or stressor sources to the waterbody and the extent of needed discharge reductions or controls.
- **Loading Capacity/Seasonal Variations and Critical Conditions/Linkage Analysis:** The loading capacity is an estimate of the assimilative capacity of the waterbody for the pollutant of concern taking into account seasonal variations and critical conditions. The linkage analysis describes the analytical basis for concluding that the load allocations along with the margin of safety will not exceed the loading capacity of the waterbody.
- **Load Allocations/Margin of Safety:** The allocation of allowable loads or load reductions among different sources, providing an adequate margin of safety. These allocations are usually expressed as waste load allocations for point sources, load allocations for nonpoint sources, and contributions from

natural sources. The margin of safety takes into account any lack of knowledge concerning the relationship between effluent limitations and water quality. Allocations can be expressed in terms of mass loads or other appropriate measures. The TMDL equals the sum of the above allocations and the margin of safety and cannot exceed the loading capacity for the waterbody.

In addition to these technical components, TMDLs must include a public participation component, an implementation plan, and a monitoring plan. Before approval by USEPA or incorporation into the Basin Plan, TMDLs must be subject to public review (40 CFR 130.7). Public review requirements for Basin Plan Amendments are described in Chapter 1 of this document. The implementation plan should include a description of best management practices, point source controls or other actions necessary to implement the TMDL as well as how and when the necessary controls will be accomplished and who is responsible for each measure. The monitoring plan is required to evaluate the effectiveness of the TMDL and should include a schedule for reviewing and revising, if necessary, the TMDL and associated implementation measures.

### ***Organization of Chapter***

As TMDLs are developed, this chapter (Chapter 7) of the Basin Plan will be amended to include summaries of each TMDL in chronological order of Board approval.

**Table 7-1 TMDL Summaries**

| <b>Watershed</b>  | <b>Reach</b>  | <b>Pollutant</b>    |
|---|---|---------------------|
| <b><i>San Gabriel River</i></b>   | <b><i>East Fork</i></b>   | <b><i>Trash</i></b> |
| <b>Element</b>  | <b>Derivation of Numbers</b>  |                     |
| <b><i>Problem Statement</i></b>   | High recreational use of the river results in trash being deposited in and along the stream, posing a threat to water quality.  |                     |
| <b><i>Water Quality Objective</i></b>   | <p>Waters shall not contain floating materials, including solids, liquids, foams, and scum, in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.</p> <p>Water shall not contain suspended or settleable material in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.</p> |                     |
| <b><i>Numeric Target</i></b><br><i>(water quality standard for trash for the East Fork)</i> | No trash in the river   |                     |
| <b><i>Source Analysis</i></b>   | Picnicking and camping are the primary sources of trash.  |                     |
| <b><i>Responsible Party</i></b>   | U.S. Forest Service   |                     |
| <b><i>Load Allocations</i></b>  | Zero trash discharged to the river.   |                     |
| <b><i>Margin of Safety</i></b>  | Implicit Margin of Safety based on conservative interpretation of narrative standard  |                     |
| <b><i>Seasonal Variations and Critical Conditions</i></b>                                   | Peak recreational usage is June through September based on Forest Service, Regional Board and Los Angeles County Department of Public Works field observations.   |                     |
| <b><i>Implementation Measures</i></b>   | The USFS shall submit a "TMDL Implementation Plan" by February 1, 2000. The Plan shall include a detailed discussion of litter control measures to be implemented. The TMDL specifies that  |                     |

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
|                   | implementation and monitoring must begin by April 1, 2000. The USFS must demonstrate compliance with the TMDL (numeric target) by April 1, 2003. The Regional Board must approve any variations from this schedule.   |
| <b>Monitoring</b> | The USFS must conduct monitoring downstream of each of the four informal picnic areas referenced in the TMDL once per month during the peak use season (June-September.) Monitoring of each of the four informal picnic areas may be conducted every other month during the rest of the year. Two short-term surveys shall be conducted each year. One survey shall be conducted during a summer holiday weekend by setting up trash collection nets in the river over a period of four days (Friday through Monday). A wet season survey using trash collection nets over four days shall also be conducted. |

\*The complete administrative record for the TMDL is available for review upon request.