


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: September 29, 2016

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BASIN PLAN TO INCORPORATE PROGRAMS OF IMPLEMENTATION CONSISTING OF STAKEHOLDER-DEVELOPED GROUNDWATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR SALTS AND NUTRIENTS IN THE RAYMOND BASIN AND MAIN SAN GABRIEL 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 programs of implementation consisting of salt and nutrient management measures for the Raymond Basin and Main San Gabriel 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 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 Raymond Basin covers three subareas within its boundaries: the Monk Hill, Pasadena and Santa Anita Subareas. The Main San Gabriel SNMP covers the Western Area and Eastern Area, as identified in the Basin Plan. Stakeholders and interested parties for each Basin collaborated to develop their respective SNMPs. Planning efforts for the Raymond Basin were led by the Raymond Basin Management Board in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Planning efforts for the Main San Gabriel Basin were led by the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster in conjunction with the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District; San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District; Three Valley's Municipal Water District; the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works; the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; and the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.

These SNMPs contains all the required elements prescribed by the Recycled Water Policy including considerations of water recycling and stormwater recharge. The plans also present 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 programs of implementation consisting of salt and nutrient management measures for the Raymond Basin and Main San Gabriel 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, December 8, 2016

Time: 9:00 AM

Place: City of Pasadena Council Chambers
100 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, California 1101

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 Documents (SEDs), consisting of tentative resolutions, proposed Basin Plan language, draft staff memoranda, CEQA checklists, and Salt and Nutrient Management Plans (SNMPs) for the Raymond Basin and Main San Gabriel Basin, are 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 provide comments on the SEDs, including the tentative resolutions, proposed Basin Plan amendments, staff memoranda, SNMPs and CEQA checklists, 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 November 14, 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 Raymond Basin and Main San Gabriel 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 Lyris 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.