TO: Interested Persons

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Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

DATE: October 24, 2016

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AN ADDENDUM TO THE SUBSTITUTE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGIONAL WATER BOARD'S CONSIDERATION OF STAKEHOLDER-DEVELOPED GROUNDWATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR SALTS AND NUTRIENTS IN THE UPPER SANTA CLARA RIVER GROUNDWATER BASIN

This notice is to inform interested persons of the availability of an addendum to the Substitute Environmental Document (SED) for the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) for the Upper Santa Clara River (USCR) Groundwater Basin (also known as the Santa Clara River Valley East Subbasin). This addendum was prepared to address an additional groundwater management scenario in the USCR Basin SNMP that considers, via a sensitivity analysis, the impact of a potential increase in chloride levels in recycled water used for irrigation in the area. The addendum and the sensitivity analysis 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

Background

Per the Recycled Water Policy, SNMPs shall comply with CEQA, which requires state and local agencies to determine the potentially significant environmental impacts of proposed projects, and identify measures to avoid or mitigate those impacts where feasible. For the USCR Basin SNMP, the impact of treated effluent discharged to the Santa Clara River and recycled water applied to the land surface for landscape irrigation on groundwater quality in the basin was assessed. The SED analyzed the impact of chloride concentrations in recycled water supplied by the two water reclamation plants in the Santa Clarita Valley (the Valencia Water Reclamation Plant and the Saugus Water Reclamation Plant).

Subsequent to submission of the SNMP, stakeholders modeled another scenario with chloride concentrations at a higher level, which was meant to represent potential increases in the chloride level in the imported water supply due to historic drought condition.. This additional scenario is being added to the SED through an addendum. The addendum demonstrates that the environmental analysis, impacts, and mitigation measures identified in the CEQA SED remain substantively unchanged as a result of the additional modeling scenario considered and described in the sensitivity analysis.

Under CEQA, an addendum to a CEQA document, including a SED, is appropriate if minor technical changes or modifications to the project occur (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15164), where the changes or modifications to not result in any new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant impacts. The addendum need not be recirculated for public review (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15164[c] and 15088.5) where 'new information' added to the document is not "significant" and the new information added merely clarifies or amplifies or makes insignificant modifications to the document. However, the Los Angeles Water Board must consider the addendum with the final CEQA document prior to making a decision on the project modifications (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15164[d]).

This notice is for information purposes only. Comments are not being solicited due to the non-substantive nature of the revisions.