



California Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
 Inland Deserts Region
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EDMUND G. BROWN, Jr., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



Public Comment
Rec. Std. Amend - Santa Ana RWB
Deadline: 10/1/12 by 12 noon

October 1, 2012

Ms. Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
 State Water Resources Control Board
 1001 I Street, 24th Floor
 Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: Comment Letter – Recreation Standards Amendments by the Santa Ana Water Board

Dear Ms. Townsend:

The California Department of Fish and Game (Department) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Regional Water Quality Control Board – Santa Ana Region's (Santa Ana Water Board's) amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (Basin Plan) adopted by the Santa Ana Water Board on June 15, 2012. The Department is responding as a Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources (Fish and Game Code sections 711.7 and 1802 and the California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] section 15386) and as a Responsible Agency regarding any discretionary actions (CEQA Guidelines section 15381) such as the issuance of a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSA) and/or a California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Incidental Take of Permit (ITP) [Fish and Game Code Sections 2080 and 2080.1].

The Santa Ana Water Board's amendment to the Basin Plan includes revisions to recreational standards for inland fresh surface waters in the Santa Ana Region. The Department has reviewed the amendment to the Basin Plan and has extensive comments pertaining to the following Beneficial Use categories: COLD, BIOL, WILD, RARE, and SPWN. Department staff discussed these comments with Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (SARWQCB) staff on October 1, 2012. SARWQCB staff requested that the Department postpone the submittal of these comments until the public comment period for the Santa Ana Water Board's Basin Plan triennial review.

The Department has agreed to postpone comments on the above-mentioned beneficial use categories as requested; however, the Department would like to submit for the public record that comments were prepared but will be submitted following notice of the public comment period for the Santa Ana Water Board's Basin Plan triennial review.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jeff Brandt at (909) 987-7161 or JBrandt@dfg.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

for

Jeff Brandt
 Senior Environmental Scientist
 Habitat Conservation Planning