



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Diego Region

Over 50 Years Serving San Diego, Orange, and Riverside Counties
Recipient of the 2004 Environmental Award for Outstanding Achievement from U.S. EPA



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

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(619) 467-2952 • Fax (619) 571-6972
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego>

Date: October 31, 2008

TO: Interested Parties

RE: COMMENT SOLICITATION FOR TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE BASIN PLAN

2009 Triennial Review of the Basin Plan

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Regional Board) is initiating its triennial review of the *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin* (Basin Plan), and is seeking public input on the identification of basin planning issues the San Diego Regional Board should address in the next three years.

The Basin Plan is the foundation for the San Diego Regional Board's water quality regulatory programs. The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses for water bodies in the San Diego Region, establishes water quality objectives to protect those beneficial uses, contains implementation plans that describe the actions necessary to achieve water quality objectives, and describes the surveillance and monitoring activities needed to determine regulatory compliance and assess the health of the Region's water resources.

Both state and federal laws mandate the periodic review and update of Basin Plans. California Water Code section 13240 states, "Each regional board shall formulate and adopt water quality control plans for all areas within the region... Such plans shall be periodically reviewed and may be revised." Federal Clean Water Act section 303(c)(1) states, "the State water pollution control agency... shall from time to time (but at least once each three year period...) hold public hearings for the purpose of reviewing applicable water quality standards and, as appropriate, modifying and adopting standards." Because the review is mandated by the Clean Water Act every three years, it is termed a "triennial review."

The triennial review process includes a public solicitation and identification of issues that may need to be addressed through Basin Plan amendments. After public input is received, the San Diego Regional Board develops and adopts by resolution a priority list of potential Basin Plan amendments that may be accomplished during the next three years.

The triennial review presents an opportunity for interested parties to give the San Diego Regional Board valuable input on basin planning issues and priorities.

California Environmental Protection Agency

Comment Solicitation Period

Written comments (i.e., issues, concerns, or suggestions) regarding water quality standards or other aspects of the Basin Plan will be accepted during a 70-day solicitation period beginning October 31, 2008 and ending January 9, 2009. Comments received after 5:00 p.m. on January 9, 2009 will not be accepted. A copy of the Notice of Public Solicitation Period is enclosed (Enclosure 1).

Submittal of Comments

A comment submittal form is provided on the San Diego Regional Board's Triennial Review webpage at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/tri_review.shtml. When used electronically, the comment field on the form expands to accommodate unlimited text. Use of the comment submittal form is strongly encouraged. A printed copy of the form is enclosed (Enclosure 2).

Please send completed comment submittal form(s) or other written communication to:

Attn: Ms. Deborah Woodward
Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123-4340
Fax: (858) 571-6972
Email: RB9_tri_review@waterboards.ca.gov

Please include the words "Triennial Review" in the subject line of your communication.

Consideration of Comments

The two main source documents to review are the Basin Plan and the 2004 Triennial Review. Both of these documents are available on the San Diego Water Board's website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/index.shtml.

Comments received from the public and Regional Board staff during the solicitation period will be compiled, formulated, and carefully considered. Comments can be on new Basin Plan issues, or on issues already listed in the 2004 Triennial Review. The 2009 Triennial Review list to be developed will consist of new issues, revised issues already in the 2004 Triennial Review, and issues carried over from the 2004 Triennial Review.

As in past triennial reviews, the addition of new issues to the list of previously identified issues results in a growing list of issues that far exceeds the staff resources allocated to update the Basin Plan. Because there will be more issues than can realistically be addressed in a three year period given limited resources for basin planning, issues will be prioritized based primarily on the extent to which they will protect public health and designated beneficial uses if addressed through a Basin Plan amendment. Other factors that will be considered when identifying and prioritizing issues will include, but not be limited to, consistency with State Water Resources Control Board and U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency plans and priorities; degree of stakeholder interest and support; amount of resources invested and/or available; and geographic scope affected.

Public Workshop

An informational Public Workshop will be conducted by staff of the Board on Monday, December 8, 2008 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the San Diego Regional Board. The primary purpose of this workshop is to provide an overview of the triennial review process. The workshop is also an opportunity to provide comments on the process. Interested parties are requested to send their questions to Ms. Deborah Woodward (DWoodward@waterboards.ca.gov) prior to the workshop so that their questions can be addressed during the presentation. A copy of the Notice of Public Workshop enclosed (Enclosure 1).

Directions to the workshop are available on the "About Us" tab of the San Diego Regional Board website (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/about_us/). Parking is available at the workshop. The workshop is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Lori Costa at (858) 467-2357 at least five working days prior to the workshop. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Important Dates and Deadlines

Public Solicitation Period opens	October 31, 2008
Informational Public Workshop (first)	1:30 p.m. on December 8, 2008
Public Solicitation Period closes; Final date for submitting comments	5:00 p.m. on January 9, 2009

Comments received after 5:00 p.m. on January 9, 2009 will not be accepted.

Overview of Anticipated Triennial Review Schedule

Public Solicitation Period opens	October 31, 2008
Informational Public Workshop (first)	1:30 p.m. on December 8, 2008
Public Solicitation Period closes; Final date for submitting comments	5:00 p.m. on January 9, 2009
Draft Resolution and Staff Report available for public review	March-April 2009
Informational Public Workshop (second)	Mid-March 2009
Revised Tentative Resolution, Staff Report, and Response to Comments available for public review	May 2009
Public Hearing to consider adoption of Tentative Resolution including priority list of basin planning issues	June 2009

The San Diego Regional Board expects to hold a formal public hearing as early as June 2009 to consider adoption of a resolution that includes the priority list of basin planning issues developed during this triennial review.

Availability of Documents

All documents relating to the 2009 Triennial Review are available through the San Diego Regional Board's Triennial Review webpage at

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/tri_review.shtml.

The 2009 Triennial Review public notices and comment submittal form are currently posted, and additional documents will be added to this webpage as they become available. Important source documents, such as the Basin Plan and 2004 Triennial Review, are also accessible from this webpage.

The triennial review documents may also be viewed by appointment at the San Diego Regional Board office during regular business hours, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office is located at 9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100, San Diego, California 92123-4340.

To Receive Future Triennial Review Notices and Updates

Future triennial review notices and updates will be sent only to persons who are on the "Basin Planning Issues" electronic mailing list or have asked to receive triennial review information via U.S. Mail. Therefore, to receive future triennial review communications via email, please subscribe to the "Basin Planning Issues" electronic mailing list at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg9_subscribe.shtml.

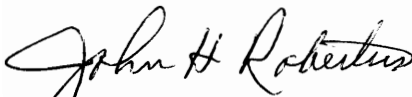
To receive future triennial review communications via U.S. mail, please send a written request to Ms. Deborah Woodward at DWoodward@waterboards.ca.gov, or to the fax or street address provided on page 2 of this letter.

Staff Contact

Questions regarding the triennial review may be directed to Ms. Deborah Woodward at DWoodward@waterboards.ca.gov or (858) 637-5586.

Thank you in advance for your contributions to this very important process.

Sincerely,



John H. Robertus
Executive Officer

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Public Solicitation Period and Public Workshop
2. Copy of Comment Submittal Form

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, SAN DIEGO REGION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SOLICITATION PERIOD AND PUBLIC WORKSHOP
FOR BASIN PLAN TRIENNIAL REVIEW**

**Public Solicitation Period
October 31, 2008 to
January 9, 2009**

**Public Workshop
December 8, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.
San Diego Regional Board Office, Board Room,
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100,
San Diego, California 92123-4340**

Triennial Review of Basin Plan

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Regional Board) is seeking public input on the need to review and update the *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin* (Basin Plan). The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses for water bodies in the San Diego Region, and establishes water quality objectives and implementation plans to protect those beneficial uses. Both state and federal laws mandate the periodic review and update of Basin Plans. The periodic review is known as the "Triennial Review" because federal law requires that a state's water quality standards be reviewed every three years. The primary purpose of the Triennial Review is to review water quality standards (e.g., beneficial uses and water quality objectives) and other aspects of the Basin Plan, and determine if updates are needed to keep pace with applicable regulations, advances in science and technology, and/or physical changes within the Region.

Public participation is an important part of the Triennial Review process. This notice solicits input on issues to be considered for inclusion on the San Diego Regional Board's list of basin planning priorities. Once public input is considered, the San Diego Regional Board develops and adopts by resolution a priority list of issues that will be used to direct basin planning efforts over the next three years. Opportunity for public comment on a draft priority list will be announced at a later date. More information about the Triennial Review, with links to the Basin Plan and previous Triennial Review completed in 2004 can be found at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/tri_review.shtml.

Request for Public Input

Written comments on water quality standards or other Basin Plan issues are invited during the 70-day solicitation period from **October 31, 2008 to January 9, 2009**.

Submittal of Comments

Please send comments to:

Attn: Ms. Deborah Woodward
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123-4340
Fax: (858) 571-6972
Email: RB9_tri_review@waterboards.ca.gov

Include the words "Triennial Review" in the subject line of your communication.

A Comment Submittal Form is provided at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/tri_review.shtml.

Deadline for Comments

The deadline for receipt of comments is Friday, **January 9, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.** Comments received after 5:00 p.m. on January 9, 2009 will not be accepted.

Public Workshop

An informational public workshop on the Basin Plan Triennial Review will be held:

Date: Monday, December 8, 2008
Time: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Location: Board Room,
San Diego Regional Board Office,
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100,
San Diego, California 92123-4340

Directions to the workshop are available at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/about_us/. Parking is available at the workshop. The workshop facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact Lori Costa at (858) 467-2357 at least five working days prior to the workshop. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

To Receive Triennial Review Information

Subscribe to the electronic mailing list at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg9_subscribe.shtml (select "Basin Planning Issues"), or request to have triennial review information sent to you via U.S. Mail (send written request to Ms. Deborah Woodward).

Staff Contact

For further information, please contact Ms. Deborah Woodward directly at (858) 637-5586 or dwoodward@waterboards.ca.gov.


John H. Robertus
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dated: October 31, 2008

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION**

9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, California 92123-4340



**2009 BASIN PLAN TRIENNIAL REVIEW
COMMENT SUBMITTAL FORM**

Please use this form to submit comments that you would like the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board to consider during the Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan of the San Diego Basin (Basin Plan). Of particular interest are comments about water quality standards (e.g., beneficial uses and water quality objectives), but comments about any aspect of the Basin Plan are welcome. Comments submitted through the Triennial Review process provide the public an opportunity to assist the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board in identifying issues that need to be addressed through Basin Plan amendments in order to best meet the water quality planning needs of the San Diego Region. For additional information about the Triennial Review process, please see the following website:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/tri_review.shtml

If you have multiple comments (i.e., multiple issues, concerns, suggestions), please submit a separate comment submittal form for each. Completed form(s) may be emailed to RB9_tri_review@waterboards.ca.gov; sent to the attention of Deborah Woodward at the address in the header of this form; or faxed to (858) 571-6972. Please include the words "Triennial Review" in the subject line of your communication. Deadline for submittal is **January 9, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.** Thank you for your participation!

1. CONTACT INFORMATION:

First Name:	Last Name:		
Organization Name:			
Address:			
City:	County:	State:	Zip:
Telephone:	Ext:		
Email:			

2. COMMENT TOPIC:

Please specify the topic of your comment. (Please try to limit topic to ten words or less.)

3. COMMENT:

Please provide a detailed description of your issue/concern/suggestion, and explain why it needs to be addressed. (There is no limit to the amount of text for the comment. The space will expand as needed.)

4. GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE OF COMMENT:

Mark the box (☒) that best corresponds to the geographic scope of your comment:

<input type="checkbox"/> Entire San Diego Region	
<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple watersheds	<i>If the watersheds and/or waterbodies are known, please specify here:</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Single watershed	
<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple waterbodies	
<input type="checkbox"/> Single waterbody	
<input type="checkbox"/> Beach or coastal waters	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
<input type="checkbox"/> None of the above (comment is administrative or has no direct geographic scope)	

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR COMMENT:

Information about the following items may help us better understand and evaluate your comment. For any that are applicable to your comment, please elaborate in the space provided. Leave blank if item is not applicable or if you are unsure.

- a. **If you think a Basin Plan amendment addressing your comment would likely have widespread stakeholder support, please explain in the space below and, if known, list supportive stakeholder(s) with phone or email contact(s).** *(The space will expand as needed.)*

- b. **If substantial resources have been invested in developing technical information that would support a Basin Plan amendment addressing your comment, please explain in the space below.** *(The space will expand as needed.)*

- c. **If substantial resources are likely available to augment Regional Board resources needed to develop a Basin Plan amendment addressing your comment, please explain in the space below.** *(The space will expand as needed.)*

6. HOW TO BRING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO OUR ATTENTION:

- a. If you would like to direct us to additional information that supports/supplements your comment, e.g., web address, report citation, contact person for follow-up, please give direction in the space below.**
(The space will expand as needed.)

- b. If you are submitting additional information that supports/supplements your comment, e.g., reports, articles, data sets, please tell us what you are sending so that once received we can link it to your comment.** *(The space will expand as needed.)*

Note: Supporting information may be emailed to RB9_tri_review@waterboards.ca.gov; sent to the attention of Deborah Woodward at the address in the header of this form; or faxed to (858) 571-6972. Please include the words "Triennial Review" in the subject line of your communication. Email can accommodate files up to approximately 15MB. If you are uncertain how best to submit additional supporting information, please call 858-637-5586.