

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SANTA ANA REGION**

3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501-3348

April 28, 2022

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT
TENTATIVE RESOLUTION NO. R8-2022-0017**

Approving Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin
to Revise the Schedule for Attaining the Fecal Coliform Total Maximum Daily Loads for
the Shellfish Harvesting Beneficial Use in Newport Bay

NOTICE IS HEARBY GIVEN that the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Water Board) will consider adoption of an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (Basin Plan) to revise the schedule for attaining the Fecal Coliform Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Shellfish Harvesting (SHEL) beneficial use in Newport Bay and to make other non-substantive editorial changes to Basin Plan Chapter 6, Section 3.a. Fecal Coliform TMDLs (Draft Amendment).

A public hearing will be held to consider the adoption of the Draft Amendment through approval of tentative Resolution No. R8-2022-0017. The public hearing will be held at the regularly scheduled Santa Ana Water Board meeting as follows:

Date: June 3, 2022

Time: 9:00 a.m.

**Location: California Air Resources Board's Southern California
Headquarters Building, 4001 Iowa Avenue, Riverside, CA 92507
(remote participation available)**

The public may participate either in person at the physical meeting location or virtually via the Zoom meeting platform. Instructions concerning how to participate virtually are available on the Santa Ana Water Board's website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/board_info/remote_meeting/index.html

Interested persons are also invited to attend and express their views on issues relating to the Draft Amendment. Oral statements will be heard and should be brief to allow all interested persons time to be heard. Depending on the number of persons wishing to be heard, the Board Chair may impose a time limit for each speaker.

When considering approval of the Santa Ana Water Board's adoption of the Draft Amendment, the State Water Resources Control Board may refuse to accept any comments that were not timely raised before the Santa Ana Water Board. Interested

persons are strongly encouraged to make all comments on this proposed action to the Santa Ana Water Board either orally at the public hearing and/or in writing during the written, public comment period.

A copy of the Santa Ana Water Board's agenda for the June 3, 2022 meeting will be available on the Santa Ana Water Board's website at the following link: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/board_info/agendas/2022_agendas.html. Please check the Santa Ana Water Board's website for the most up-to-date public hearing date and location, as they are subject to change.

Background

The Basin Plan is the guiding document that outlines the Santa Ana Water Board's plan for preserving and enhancing water quality in the region for the protection of beneficial uses for present and future generations. The Basin Plan contains the region's beneficial uses for groundwaters and surface waters, water quality objectives for protection of beneficial uses, and implementation programs to achieve water quality objectives.

The Santa Ana Water Board established Fecal Coliform TMDLs for Newport Bay to protect the SHEL beneficial use. These TMDLs include wasteload and load allocations and an implementation plan to assure attainment of water quality objectives. The Santa Ana Water Board previously revised the attainment date for meeting the SHEL water quality objectives from December 30, 2019 to December 31, 2022. The Draft Amendment would further extend the attainment date for the Fecal Coliform TMDLs to December 31, 2030 in Table 6-1f of the Basin Plan to allow the completion of additional studies to determine whether the current water quality objectives for fecal coliform are scientifically supportable. Following completion of additional studies, the Santa Ana Water Board may need to develop site-specific objectives for and/or new TMDLs to protect the SHEL beneficial use in Newport Bay. The Draft Amendment is needed so that there is sufficient time to consider, formulate, and complete projects to assess appropriateness of the water quality objectives. The Draft Amendment also includes other non-substantive, editorial changes for clarity in Chapter 6, Section 3.a of the Basin Plan, which discusses the Fecal Coliform TMDLs.

Submission of Written Comments

The Santa Ana Water Board will accept written comments on the Draft Amendment during the 30-day public comment period. Persons wishing to submit written comments on the Draft Amendment are requested to do so as soon as possible, but no later than **May 31, 2022**. Written responses from the Santa Ana Water Board will be provided only to timely, written comments received during the comment period.

Written comments can be submitted via email to Terri Reeder at Terri.Reeder@waterboards.ca.gov using the subject line: "Comment Letter: Newport Bay Fecal Coliform TMDLs Basin Plan Amendment" or by fax at (951) 781-6288. Hand deliveries and mailed comments should be sent to the address below:

Attn: Terri Reeder, Senior Engineering Geologist
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
3737 Main Street, Ste. 500
Riverside, CA 92501

Document Availability

Copies of the Draft Amendment and supporting documents, including the Staff Report and Resolution R8-2022-0017, are available on the “Tentative Orders” page of the Santa Ana Water Board’s website at the following link:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.html

Arrangements for file review and/or obtaining copies of documents may be made by calling the Santa Ana Water Board at (951) 782-4130.

Accessibility

Any person who is disabled and requires special accommodation to participate in the Santa Ana Water Board hearing should contact Jessica Baenre at (951) 782-3285 no later than May 26, 2022.

Additional Information

Questions regarding this matter should be directed to Terri Reeder at Terri.Reeder@waterboards.ca.gov or (951) 782-4995, or to the Santa Ana Water Board office location: 3737 Main Street, Suite 500, Riverside, California.