



Heal the Bay

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October 27, 2006

Chairwoman Doduc and Board Members
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



Re: Comments on the Proposed Basin Plan Amendment to Establish a TMDL for Metals and Selenium in San Gabriel River and Impaired Tributaries

Dear Chairwomen Doduc and Board Members:

On behalf of Heal the Bay, we submit the following comments on the proposed Basin Plan Amendment to establish a TMDL for Metals and Selenium in San Gabriel River and Impaired Tributaries ("TMDL"). We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments.

Heal the Bay supports the TMDL adopted by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board on July 13, 2006 (Resolution No. R4-2006-014). In particular, we strongly support the inclusion of enforceable milestones, as this is extremely important to ensure progress toward meeting final WLAs and numeric targets. Without these explicit enforceable milestones, responsible parties could maintain the status quo for many years without taking actions necessary for attaining water quality standards. Also we support the inclusion of an explicit final compliance point requiring that both waste load allocations **and** water quality standards are met, as the entire purpose of the TMDL program is to meet water quality standards. While this has always been implicit in all the TMDLs, we believe it is important to make it explicit in the schedule to avoid any potential confusion.

In sum, we believe that implementation of this TMDL will lead to water quality standards attainment. We therefore urge the State Board to adopt the Resolution approving the TMDL.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of these comments, please feel free to contact us at (310) 451-1500. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Kirsten James, MESM
Staff Scientist



Mark Gold, D. Env.
Executive Director