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# State Water Resources Control Board

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## **NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGION INCORPORATING THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER AND IMPAIRED TRIBUTARIES METALS AND SELENIUM TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL)**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT** the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will now accept comments on an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan) that would incorporate a TMDL for metals and selenium in the San Gabriel River and its tributaries. The proposed amendment and the State Water Board item language and draft resolution are available on the State Water Board's Web site at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/tmdl/tmdl.html> or by mail by contacting Glenda Marsh at (916) 341-5558. The proposed amendment was adopted by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) on July 13, 2006. The State Water Board expects to consider the proposed amendment at a future meeting in 2006. Notice of that meeting will be published separately.

This TMDL addresses waters not meeting water quality standards due to elevated levels of metals and selenium in water in the San Gabriel River and its tributaries. The beneficial uses most affected by metals and selenium loadings into the San Gabriel River and its tributaries include those associated with aquatic life; water supply; wildlife habitat; rare, threatened or endangered species; warm freshwater habitat; wetlands; and groundwater recharge. Metals and selenium listings are all subject to a consent decree between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Heal the Bay, et. al. USEPA must approve the TMDL by March 22, 2007, or USEPA will be required to establish a TMDL itself.

The Basin Plan amendment specifies numeric targets for metals and selenium in San Gabriel River Reach 2, Coyote Creek, San Jose Creek Reach 1, and the San Gabriel River Estuary. The targets include wet-weather and dry-weather water quality targets for copper, lead, zinc, and selenium. The Basin Plan amendment establishes wasteload allocations for point source discharges and load allocations for nonpoint source discharges of metals and selenium. For non-storm water permittees (including general permits, minor permits, power plant and publicly owned treatment works permits, and other major permits) wasteload allocations become permit limits at the time of permit issuance, renewal, or re-opener, and permittees have up to four years to implement compliance measures. General industrial permittees have four years to comply with interim wet-weather wasteload allocations and have nine years to comply with final wet-weather wasteload allocations. These permittees will conduct annual monitoring and reporting of best management practices (BMP) performance and progress toward meeting the interim and final wasteload allocations. General construction storm water permittees will conduct BMP effectiveness studies and submit results six years after the TMDL effective date. Then, those permittees must adopt approved BMPs by eight years after the TMDL to be considered in compliance. Municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) storm water permittees must achieve

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wet-weather and dry-weather wasteload allocations in increasing percentages of the watershed at six and eight years, with 100 percent compliance with dry-weather wasteload allocations in ten years, and with wet-weather wasteload allocations in 15 years. The MS4 and Caltrans implementation schedule may be extended, upon Los Angeles Water Board approval, if an integrated resources approach is employed. For point sources, the TMDL will be implemented through National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permits. For nonpoint sources, the TMDL will be implemented through Water Code sections 13263 and 13269 in conformance with the State Water Board's Nonpoint Source Implementation and Enforcement Policy and the Los Angeles Water Board's Conditional Waiver for Discharges from Irrigated Lands. Structural and non-structural management measures and BMPs may be used to achieve compliance with the wasteload allocations. The proposed TMDL assesses compliance with wasteload allocations by requiring MS4 and Caltrans NPDES permittees to conduct ambient water quality monitoring and collect sediment samples in the San Gabriel River Estuary. Storm water permittees will be required to evaluate the effectiveness of BMPs undertaken to meet wasteload allocations. In addition, water reclamation plants, power plants, and other non-storm water NPDES permittees will monitor effluent discharges for compliance with wasteload allocations. The monitoring program also stipulates the collection of additional data to evaluate the uncertainties and assumptions made in development of the TMDL.

Comment letters must be received by 12 p.m. on October 27, 2006. After the October deadline, State Water Board staff will not accept additional written comments unless the State Water Board determines that such comments should be accepted. Please send comments to: Song Her, Clerk to the Board, by email at [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov), (916) 341-5620 (fax), or addressed to State Water Resources Control Board, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. Please also indicate in the subject line, "Comment Letter – San Gabriel River Metals TMDL." Please direct questions about this notice to Glenda Marsh, Division of Water Quality, at (916) 341-5558 or [gmarsh@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:gmarsh@waterboards.ca.gov) or Senior Staff Counsel Steven H. Blum at (916) 341-5177 or [SBlum@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:SBlum@waterboards.ca.gov).

October 2, 2006  
Date



Song Her  
Clerk to the Board