D R A F T March 5, 2007

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION—DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
DATE: TBD

ITEM:

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGION (BASIN PLAN) TO REVISE THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE UPPER SANTA CLARA RIVER CHLORIDE TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL)

DISCUSSION

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) Resolution No. R4-2006-016, adopted on August 3, 2006, modified the regulatory provisions of the Basin Plan by revising the *Implementation Schedule for the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Chloride in the Upper Santa Clara River* (Implementation Plan) (Resolution No. 04-004, which became effective on May 5, 2005). The revised TMDL accelerates the schedule from 13 years to 11 years and adds implementation milestones for TMDL planning.

This TMDL addresses exceedances of the 100 milligrams per liter (mg/L) chloride water quality objective for the following beneficial uses: agriculture supply, groundwater recharge, warm freshwater habitat, and wildlife habitat. The TMDL identifies wastewater discharges from the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts' (Districts) Saugus and Valencia Water Reclamation Plants (water reclamation plants) as the primary source of chloride and assigns waste load allocations of 100 mg/L chloride to the water reclamation plants. The TMDL Implementation Plan initially provided a 13-year schedule for attaining the water quality standards. This revision shortens the schedule by two years.

The Implementation Plan requires the Districts to conduct special studies in the first five years and, based on the results of the special studies, to plan, design, and construct appropriate chloride control measures in the following eight years. The TMDL special studies are designed to examine the scientific basis for the existing chloride objective of 100 mg/L and provide a basis for the Los Angeles Water Board to revise the chloride objective, if warranted by the studies. The TMDL also includes Los Angeles Water Board reconsideration of the TMDL schedule 12 months after the TMDL effective date, based on results of the special studies.

The TMDL requires the Districts to implement special studies and actions to reduce chloride loadings from the water reclamation plants. The TMDL Implementation Plan includes four special studies to be considered by the Los Angeles Water Board:

- Agricultural Chloride Threshold Study – Literature Review and Evaluation (LRE) and Extended Study Alternatives (ESA) – LRE: review agronomic literature to determine a chloride threshold for salt sensitive crops; ESA: identify agricultural studies, including schedules and costs, to refine the chloride threshold.
- Groundwater and Surface Water Interaction Study (GSWI) – determine chloride transport and fate from surface waters to groundwater basins underlying the Upper Santa Clara River (USCR).
- Endangered Species Protection (ESP) – review available literature to determine chloride sensitivities of endangered species in the USCR.

- Site-Specific Objectives (SSO) and antidegradation analysis – consider an SSO for chloride based on the results of the agricultural chloride threshold study and the GSWI.

Based on these studies, the Los Angeles Water Board will consider whether revisions to the chloride water quality objectives or TMDL schedule or establishment of an SSO are warranted.

The Los Angeles Water Board found that the key technical issues of cumulative chloride impacts to groundwater will be addressed by a ground water and surface water interaction model to be developed by the Los Angeles Water Board and the Districts by November 24, 2007. With completion of the literature review, the evaluation, and the groundwater and surface water interaction model, the Los Angeles Water Board found that sufficient information will be available for initiating the feasibility tasks, including the development of a facilities plan, Environmental Impact Report and engineering plan, to implement compliance measures to meet the chloride objectives. The subsequent TMDL tasks, such as development of SSOs, development of the antidegradation analysis, development of a preplanning report on conceptual measures to meet different hypothetical final waste load allocations, and preparation and consideration of a Basin Plan amendment to review the chloride objective by the Los Angeles Water Board, remain in place in this amendment.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) approve the amendment to the Basin Plan in accordance with the staff recommendations below?

FISCAL IMPACT

Los Angeles Water Board and State Water Board staffs' work associated with or resulting from this action will be addressed with existing and future budgeted resources.

REGIONAL WATER BOARD IMPACT

Yes, Los Angeles Water Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board:

1. Approves the amendment to the Basin Plan adopted under Los Angeles Water Board Resolution No. R4-2006-016.

2. Authorizes the Executive Director or designee to submit the amendment adopted under Los Angeles Water Board Resolution No. R4-2006-016 to Office of Administrative Law for concurrence on its non-regulatory and regulatory status and to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for informational purposes.

D R A F T March 5, 2007

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2007-

APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGION (BASIN PLAN) TO REVISE THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE UPPER SANTA CLARA RIVER CHLORIDE TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL)

WHEREAS:

1. The Upper Santa Clara River chloride TMDL became effective on May 5, 2005. On August 3, 2006, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) amended the Upper Santa Clara River chloride TMDL to revise the implementation schedule (Resolution No. R4-2006-016 [Attachment]).

2. The Los Angeles Water Board staff issued a notice of exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act on May 5, 2006. The Los Angeles Water Board found that the amendment was exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations sections 15378 (Project) and 15382 (Significant Effect on the Environment).

3. Los Angeles Water Board found that the additions of this amendment would result in no adverse effect on wildlife, and the amendment would be consistent with the State Antidegradation Policy (State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16) and federal antidegradation requirements.

4. The State Water Board finds that the Basin Plan amendment is in conformance with Water Code section 13240, which specifies that Regional Water Quality Control Boards may revise Basin Plans. The State Water Board also finds that the Basin Plan amendment is consistent with the requirements of federal Clean Water Act section 303(c).

5. A Basin Plan amendment does not become effective until approved by the State Water Board and until the regulatory provisions are approved by OAL.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Approves the amendment to the Basin Plan adopted under Los Angeles Water Board Resolution No. R4-2006-016.

2. Authorizes the Executive Director or designee to submit the amendment adopted under Los Angeles Water Board Resolution No. R4-2006-016 to Office of Administrative Law for concurrence on its non-regulatory and regulatory status and to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for informational purposes.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Clerk to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on TBA.

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Song Her
Clerk to the Board