



**Linda S. Adams**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

# State Water Resources Control Board

**Tam M. Doduc, Board Chair**  
1001 I Street • Sacramento, California 95814 • (916) 341-5455  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100 • Sacramento, California • 95812-0100  
Fax (916) 341-5621 • <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov>



**Arnold Schwarzenegger**  
Governor

## **NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON 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)**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT** the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will now accept comments on a Basin Plan amendment that revises the *Implementation Plan for the Upper Santa Clara River Chloride TMDL* (Implementation Plan). Both the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Los Angeles Water Board's) amendment and the State Water Board item language and draft resolution are available at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/tmdl/tmdl.html> or can be received by mail by contacting Nirmal Sandhar at (916) 341-5571. The State Water Board expects to consider approval of the amendment in the future. Notice of that meeting will be published separately.

Resolution No. R4-2006-016, adopted on August 3, 2006 by the Los Angeles Water Board, modified the regulatory provisions of the Basin Plan by revising the Implementation Plan. The amendment was adopted by the Los Angeles Water Board on May 5, 2005, under Resolution No. 04-004. The revised TMDL accelerates the schedule for compliance with the final chloride limits 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 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.

Comment letters must be received by 12 p.m. on April 4, 2007. After the April 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 –Upper Santa Clara River Chloride TMDL."

Please direct questions about this notice to Nirmal Sandhar, Division of Water Quality, at (916) 341-5571 ([nsandhar@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:nsandhar@waterboards.ca.gov)) or Senior Staff Counsel Theodore A. Cobb at (916) 341-5171 ([tcobb@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:tcobb@waterboards.ca.gov)).

March 12, 2007

Date



Song Her  
Clerk to the Board