

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF HEARING AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Ginachi Amah, D.Env. 
Basin Planning Program

DATE: May 5, 2015

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BASIN PLAN TO INCORPORATE STAKEHOLDER-DEVELOPED GROUNDWATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR SALT AND NUTRIENTS IN THE LOWER SANTA CLARA RIVER BASIN.

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board) will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of amendments to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region* (Basin Plan). The purpose of this action is to incorporate salt and nutrient management measures for the Lower Santa Clara River Basin in Ventura County. This action is consistent with the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) Recycled Water Policy requirement for the development of Salt and Nutrient Management Plans for groundwater basins throughout the state.

Background on Salt and Nutrient Management Plans

The Recycled Water Policy is intended to increase the use of recycled water throughout the state thereby promoting sustainable water supplies and reducing local dependence on imported water supplies. In developing the policy, the State Water Board recognized that increased use of recycled water, in conjunction with other applications/discharges, may result in salt and nutrient loads to groundwater basins that could result in exceedances of groundwater quality objectives. Therefore, the policy contains a requirement that salts and nutrients from all sources be managed on a basin-wide scale or watershed scale through the development of Salt and Nutrient Management Plans.

These plans are to be developed by local water and wastewater entities, together with local salt/nutrient contributing stakeholders through a collaborative process open to all interested persons, with participation by Regional Water Board staff. The plans are to be completed and proposed to the Regional Water Boards no more than seven years of the effective date of the policy (or by May 14, 2016). The Policy also directs the Regional Water Board to consider incorporating the implementation programs contained in these plans into its Basin Plan within one year of their submission to the Regional Water Board.

The Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) for the Lower Santa Clara River Basin covers the Piru, Fillmore, Santa Paula, Mound and Oxnard Forebay sub-basins within it. The SNMP was developed with broad-based local community involvement using a tiered stakeholder

process, which included a Technical Advisory Group (TAG), the Santa Clara River Watershed Committee (SCRWC), and the Los Angeles Water Board. The TAG consists of the funding agencies and stakeholders responsible for management of salts and nutrients in the watershed with representatives from agriculture, water suppliers, municipalities, including disadvantaged communities, and watershed managers. The SNMP contains all the required elements prescribed by the Recycled Water Policy including considerations of water recycling and stormwater recharge. The plan also presents existing management measures that are expected to maintain basin water quality below Basin Plan objectives in all sub-basins and address the high TDS concentrations in the Mound sub-basin. The plan also includes proposed measures to manage increases in salt and nutrient loads that may result from future recycled water projects. These stakeholder-developed implementation measures for groundwater quality management are being incorporated into the Los Angeles Region's Basin Plan.

I. HEARING DATE AND LOCATION

The Los Angeles Water Board will hold a public hearing to consider amending the Basin Plan to incorporate salt and nutrient management measures for the Lower Santa Clara River Basin after hearing Board staff's presentation and public comments. The Los Angeles Water Board is expected to take formal action on the proposed amendments to the Basin Plan. The Board is scheduled to consider this matter at its regularly scheduled board meeting on:

Date: Thursday, July 9, 2015

Time: 9:00 AM

Place: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, California 90071

Please check the Los Angeles Water Board's website <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/> for the most up-to-date public hearing location as it is subject to change.

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Theresa Rodgers at (213) 576-6789 at least five working days prior to the meeting.

II. AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

The tentative resolution, proposed Basin Plan language, and drafts of the staff memorandum, Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) for the Lower Santa Clara River Basin, and Substitute Environmental Document (SED) are available on the Los Angeles Water Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/salt_and_nutrient_management/index.shtml

These documents are also available for inspection and copying between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM at the following address:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Arrangements for file review and/or obtaining copies of documents in the Administrative Record may be made by calling the Los Angeles Water Board at (213) 576-6600. Comments and responses to comments and other subsequent relevant documents will be available online as they are generated.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUBMITTAL OF EVIDENCE

Persons wishing to comment on the tentative resolution, proposed Basin Plan amendments, staff memorandum, SNMP and SED or submit evidence for the Los Angeles Water Board to consider, are invited to submit them in writing.

To be evaluated and responded to by Board staff, included in the Board's agenda binder, and fully considered by the Board members in advance of the hearing, all written comments and evidence must be received by the Board **no later than 5:00 PM on June 19, 2015**. Untimely written comments will not be accepted or responded to by the Los Angeles Water Board. Failure to comply with these requirements is grounds for the Los Angeles Water Board to refuse to admit the proposed written comment or evidence into the administrative record.

Interested persons are encouraged to submit comments electronically. Send comments by e-mail to: Ginachi.Amah@waterboards.ca.gov. Please indicate in the subject line, "Comment Letter – Incorporation of Salt and Nutrient Management Measures for the Lower Santa Clara River Basin." Written comments submitted through email are requested to be transmitted in Microsoft Word format. Written comments sent by mail should be addressed to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
Attn: Dr. Ginachi Amah
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Interested persons are also invited to attend the hearing and present oral comments. Oral comments should be written to the extent possible. Oral comments are generally limited to 3 minutes. At the discretion of the Chair, time limitations on oral comments may be imposed, depending on the number of persons wishing to be heard. Persons requesting more than 3 minutes, must make such requests at least 1 week in advance of the hearing and will be informed of whether the request is granted.

The State Water Board when considering approval of a regional water board's adoption of Basin Plan amendments may refuse to accept any comments that were not timely raised before the regional water board. Therefore, interested persons are strongly encouraged to make all comments on this proposed action to the Los Angeles Water Board before or during the public hearing.

IV. FUTURE NOTIFICATIONS FROM STATE WATER BOARD

Any person desiring to receive future notices from the State Water Board regarding its approval process for the proposed amendments must sign up for the State Water Board's Lyrus list at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml

V. LOS ANGELES WATER BOARD STAFF CONTACTS

For additional information regarding this proposed action, please contact Dr. Ginachi Amah at (213) 576-6685 or Ginachi.Amah@waterboards.ca.gov or Thanhloan Nguyen at (213) 576-6689 or Thanhloan.Nguyen@waterboards.ca.gov.