

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
WORKSHOP SESSION--DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
OCTOBER 5, 2005

ITEM 9

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGION INCORPORATING A TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) FOR METALS IN BALLONA CREEK

DISCUSSION

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) adopted an updated Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan) on June 13, 1994. The Basin Plan was approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) on November 17, 1994 and by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on February 23, 1995.

On July 7, 2005, Los Angeles Water Board adopted [Resolution No. R05-007](#) to incorporate a TMDL for metals in Ballona Creek. Sepulvada Canyon Channel (SCC), which drains into Ballona Creek, is also subject to this TMDL. Ballona Creek is on the federal Clean Water Act section 303(d) list (303(d) list) for cadmium, copper, lead, selenium, silver, and zinc, and SCC is listed for lead. TMDLs are developed for copper, lead, selenium, and zinc. TMDLs are developed for reaches on the 303(d) list and also for tributaries that drain to impaired reaches. TMDLs are developed for dry and wet weather separately. The transition between dry and wet weather occurs when flow in the creek exceeds 40 cubic feet per second. Dry and wet weather numeric water quality targets are defined by the water quality criteria established by the California Toxics Rule.

Dry weather TMDLs (loading capacities) for each impaired reach are calculated as the product of the critical (mean) dry weather flow and the numeric target. Wasteload allocations for dry weather are developed for storm water permittees by subtracting load allocations from the total loading capacity. Storm water wasteload allocations are apportioned primarily between the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) permittees. Concentration-based dry weather wasteload allocations are also assigned to minor National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and general non-storm water NPDES permittees that discharge to Ballona Creek. A zero wasteload allocation is assigned to all general industrial and general construction storm water permits during dry weather.

Wet weather TMDLs are calculated as the product of the daily storm volume and the numeric target. Wet weather load allocations for direct air deposition are presented as equations but again are not considered significant (the dominant source of wet weather loading is also due to storm water point sources). Wet weather wasteload allocations are apportioned among the MS4,

Caltrans, general construction, and general industrial permittees. Minor, concentration-based wasteload allocations are also developed for other permittees that discharge to Ballona Creek.

The proposed implementation schedule for the MS4 and Caltrans permittees consists of a phased approach, with compliance to be achieved in prescribed percentages of the watershed until the entire watershed meets the wasteload allocations within 15 years.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board approve the amendment to the Basin Plan in accordance with the Staff Recommendation below?

FISCAL IMPACT

Los Angeles Water Board and State Water Board staff work associated with or resulting from this action can be accomplished within budgeted resources.

REGIONAL WATER BOARD IMPACT

Yes, Los Angeles Water Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board:

1. Approves the amendment to the Los Angeles Water Board Basin Plan to incorporate a TMDL for metals in Ballona Creek as adopted in Los Angeles Water Board Resolution No. R05-007.
2. Authorizes the Executive Director to transmit the amendment and administrative record for this action to OAL and the TMDL to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2005-

APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY
CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGION
INCORPORATING A TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD
(TMDL) FOR METALS IN BALLONA CREEK

WHEREAS:

1. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) adopted a revised Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles region (Basin Plan) on June 13, 1994, which was approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) on November 17, 1994 and by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on February 23, 1995.
2. On July 7, 2005, the Los Angeles Water Board adopted Resolution No. R05-007 (Attachment) amending the Basin Plan to incorporate a TMDL for metals in Ballona Creek.
3. Los Angeles Water Board staff prepared documents and followed procedures satisfying environmental documentation requirements in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act and other State laws and regulations.
4. The 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.
5. 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, and section 13242, which requires a program of implementation of water quality objectives. The State Water Board also finds that the TMDL as reflected in the Basin Plan amendment is consistent with the requirements of federal Clean Water Act section 303(d).
6. A Basin Plan amendment does not become effective until approved by the State Water Board and until the regulatory provisions are approved by OAL. The TMDL must also be approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Approves the amendment to the Los Angeles Water Board Basin Plan to incorporate a TMDL for metals in Ballona Creek as adopted in Los Angeles Water Board Resolution No. R05-007.

2. Authorizes the Executive Director to transmit the amendment and administrative record for this action to OAL and the TMDL to USEPA for approval.

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 Board held on October 5, 2005.

Debbie Irvin
Clerk to the Board