



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Los Angeles Region



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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Renee A. Purdy 
Chief, Regional Programs

DATE: August 19, 2011

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PROPOSED NON-REGULATORY AMENDMENTS TO ADMINISTRATIVELY UPDATE CHAPTER 2: "BENEFICIAL USES" OF THE BASIN PLAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of proposed non-regulatory amendments to administratively update Chapter 2: "Beneficial Uses" of the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region* (Basin Plan) by incorporating updated surface and groundwater maps and corresponding beneficial use tables, as well as the language of previously adopted Basin Plan amendments. The goal in updating this chapter of the Basin Plan is to provide higher resolution geographic information, which has been developed since the current Basin Plan was adopted in 1994. The incorporation of the language of previously adopted Basin Plan amendments, the updates made to the maps, and the alignment of the beneficial use tables with the higher resolution maps are non-regulatory administrative updates and simply serve to enhance the utility of the Basin Plan. The draft Staff Report, tentative Resolution and the higher resolution maps and corresponding beneficial use tables, along with the language of previously adopted amendments to Chapter 2 of the Basin Plan, are available on the Regional Board's website at:

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

**The Public Hearing will be held on
Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at:**

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, California**

The Regional Board will take formal action on the proposed amendments to administratively update Chapter 2 of the Basin Plan. Any person may present relevant statements or arguments. Please be advised that comments concerning the appropriateness of any beneficial use designation or any previously adopted Basin Plan amendment are not relevant to this action and will not be accepted or responded to. Comments shall be limited to the proposed

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administrative updates to Chapter 2 of the Basin Plan. Written comments must be received by the Regional Board staff no later than 5:00 p.m. on **October 3, 2011**. Written comments should be submitted electronically to gamah@waterboards.ca.gov. Failure to comply with these requirements is grounds for the Regional Board to refuse to admit the proposed written comment or exhibit into evidence (Cal. Code of Regs. Title 23, Section 649.4). Where electronic submittal is not feasible, comments should be submitted to:

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

Interested persons may also present oral comments to the Regional Board at the hearing. Oral presentations should be summarized in writing to the extent possible. Time limitations on oral presentations will be imposed.

For additional information, contact Dr. Ginachi Amah at (213) 576-6685 or gamah@waterboards.ca.gov. 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.

Background on the Administrative Update of Chapter 2 of the Basin Plan

The current Basin Plan was adopted by the Regional Board on June 13, 1994, and approved by the State Water Resources Control Board on November 17, 1994 and by the State Office of Administrative Law on February 23, 1995. Since then, a number of Basin Plan amendments have been adopted and updated watershed and program information and higher resolution geographical data have become available. These changes have yet to be reflected in the current Basin Plan.

In recognition of advancements in geographic information systems and the availability of more current background information, an administrative update of the Basin Plan was identified as a priority project to be addressed during the most recent triennial review (Resolution No. R10-001). The administrative update is being conducted in phases, and the current proposed amendments cover the administrative update of Chapter 2 of the Basin Plan, which contains the region's maps and beneficial use tables.

The maps in the 1994 Basin Plan were created using data layers obtained from the Teale Data Center, and were based primarily on three layers:

- EPA Reach File 3 (RF3): the base map of flowing waters (rivers and streams), standing waters (lakes and ponds), and wetlands—both natural and manmade—at a scale of 1:100,000.
- Calwater 1.0: the set of standardized watershed boundaries derived from several other layers at a scale of 1:24,000.

- The California Department of Water Resources Groundwater Basins (DWR Bulletin 118-80): the set of groundwater basins and sub-basins at a scale of 1:250,000.

In the seventeen years since these maps were generated, these layers have undergone several revisions. The layers most commonly used today are part of *The National Map* produced by the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

- The USGS National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) replaces RF3 and is a comprehensive set of surface waters in the United States using common features such as lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, canals, stream gages, and dams. The NHD is now available for all of California at a scale of 1:24,000.
- The USGS Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD) replaces Calwater 1.0 and defines the perimeter of drainage areas into six different levels of hierarchy, with the smallest averaging about 30,000 acres. It is now available for the entire state of California as well.
- DWR Bulletin 118 defines the groundwater basins and is periodically updated; the most recent update was made in 2003.

The proposed amendments update the surface water, groundwater, and coastal features maps contained in Figures 2-1 to 2-22 of Chapter 2 of the Basin Plan. The updated maps are created from the abovementioned more current data sets, which possess greater accuracy and complexity, and offer better ways to process and display data. In addition, the maps reflect changes in reach boundaries as a result of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) or other Basin Plan amendments adopted by the Regional Board.

The proposed amendments concurrently reconcile the list of water bodies and associated beneficial uses in the Beneficial Use Tables (2-1 to 2-4) in Chapter 2 according to the updated maps. In addition, the updated beneficial use tables contain new hydrologic unit numbers (based on the NHD dataset), and reach name changes that are consistent with more current nomenclature in adopted TMDLs and other Basin Plan amendments. Also, information from the new geographic data sets has allowed the addition of previously unnamed waters of the state to the tributary table contained in Appendix 1 of the Basin Plan.

Finally, the proposed amendments incorporate the language of three previously adopted amendments to beneficial uses in Chapter 2 of the Basin Plan. The first is the amendment to incorporate changes to municipal beneficial use designations for selected ground waters (Regional Board Resolution No.98-18). The second is the amendment incorporating the suspension of recreational beneficial uses in engineered channels during unsafe wet weather conditions (Regional Board Resolution No.R03-010). The third is the amendment to the Basin Plan creating a new recreational beneficial use (Limited REC-1) and modifying the recreational uses of Reaches 1 and 2 of Ballona Creek (State Water Board Resolution No. 2005-0015).

These proposed modifications to Chapter 2 of the Basin Plan are non-regulatory in nature and impose no new regulatory requirements. The purpose of these proposed amendments is to perform an administrative update to Chapter 2 of the Basin Plan as part of a multi-step process of administratively updating the entire Basin Plan. These proposed amendments do not involve

changes to beneficial use definitions, nor do they assign, modify, or delete beneficial use designations to any surface or ground waters within the region. These non-regulatory changes are intended solely to improve the clarity and convenience of the Basin Plan. Regulatory updates to Chapter 2 of the Basin Plan may be addressed in the future as a separate Regional Board action.