

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Renee A. Purdy *RAP*
Chief, Regional Programs
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

DATE: March 5, 2018

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF MAY 10, 2018 BOARD HEARING ON THE 2017-2019 TRIENNIAL REVIEW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board) will hold a public hearing on the 2017-2019 Triennial Review to consider and approve a list of the highest priority issues regarding water quality standards for the Los Angeles Region, to be addressed during the current review period.

**A Public Hearing will be held on May 10, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, California**

The California Water Code (CWC) section 13240 and the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) section 303(c) require periodic review of water quality standards contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan). This process is known as a triennial review. During a triennial review, possible revisions to the Basin Plan are prioritized and implemented through future Basin Plan amendments over the course of a three-year period, based upon available resources. The Staff Report and tentative Board Resolution are available on the website of the Los Angeles Water Board at:

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

The Board will take formal action to approve a list of selected projects to address during the current review period. Any person may present relevant statements or arguments. Oral presentations should be summarized in writing to the extent possible. Time limitations on oral presentations will be imposed. **Written comments must be received by the Los Angeles Water Board staff no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 5, 2018.** Written comments should be submitted electronically to losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line "Triennial Review" with a copy to Ginachi.Amah@waterboards.ca.gov. Failure to comply with these requirements is grounds for the Los Angeles Water Board to refuse to admit the proposed written comment or exhibit into evidence (California Code of Regulations, 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

For additional information, contact Dr. Céline Gallon at (213) 576-6784 or Celine.Gallon@waterboards.ca.gov, or Dr. Ginachi Amah at (213) 576-6685 or Ginachi.Amah@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 hearing.

Background on the Triennial Review

Both State and federal laws mandate the periodic review, and if necessary, update of Basin Plans. Federal law (CWA section 303(c)(1)) requires that a State's water quality standards be reviewed every three years – a process known as a triennial review. The primary purpose of a triennial review is to review water quality standards and take public comment on issues the Los Angeles Water Board should address through the Basin Plan amendment process. The triennial review process may or may not result in amendments to the Basin Plan over the course of the 3-year review cycle. The decision on whether or not to proceed with a proposed Basin Plan amendment is only made after the Los Angeles Water Board reviews the technical and legal considerations associated with an issue and determines that development of a Basin Plan amendment is supported by evidence and appropriate.

The triennial review occurs in three phases. During the first phase, the Los Angeles Water Board reviews water quality standards and identifies issues for possible Basin Plan amendments. In the second phase, the Los Angeles Water Board prioritizes the standards-related issues that will be further researched and addressed through subsequent Basin Plan amendments. Finally, during the third phase, the Los Angeles Water Board develops projects addressing these issues and adopts any resulting changes to the Basin Plan as individual Basin Plan amendments over the course of the three-year review period. Public input is a key component of each phase. Stakeholder input is solicited on issues of concern, on prioritization, and during the development of each individual Basin Plan amendment. The triennial review process may ultimately result in some amendments to the Basin Plan to adopt or modify water quality standards and implementation provisions.

The last triennial review was conducted from 2014 - 2016. 1. In October 2015, revisions to the federal Water Quality Standards (WQS) regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 131 went into effect. The final rule addressed certain key WQS program areas including triennial reviews pursuant to CWA section 303(c)(1). Per the final rule, during their next triennial review, states and authorized tribes are to consider, for adoption as WQS, new or updated CWA section 304(a) water quality criteria recommendations published by the U.S. EPA since May 30, 2000. These updated water quality criteria recommendations will be the focus of the 2017-2019 triennial review.

On November 6, 2017, the Regional Water Board sent out a triennial review notification letter to interested persons and entities informing them of the Regional Water Board's intent to comply with EPA's 2015 directive to states and authorized tribes, regarding new or updated CWA section 304(a) water quality criteria recommendations, during the 2017-19 triennial review. The notification also solicited stakeholder comments on this decision and other basin planning issues of concern that they felt should be addressed during the triennial review. The comment submission deadline was December 6, 2017. The Los Angeles Water Board received 13 comment letters representing EPA and various categories of stakeholders. The notification/solicitation and identification of priority projects constitute phase I of this triennial review period.

Phase II of the triennial review will conclude after another public comment period and public hearing scheduled for May 10, 2018 at which the Los Angeles Water Board will consider adoption of a resolution identifying the basin planning priorities to be investigated and further considered during the remainder of this triennial review.