



**Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board**

**NOTICE OF MEETING AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT**

**TO:** Interested Persons

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

**DATE:** October 6, 2014

**SUBJECT:** NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION RETAINING THE CURRENT RECREATIONAL BENEFICIAL USE DESIGNATIONS FOR THE ENGINEERED CHANNELS OF THE LOS ANGELES RIVER WATERSHED

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board) will hold a public meeting to consider adoption of a tentative resolution retaining the current recreational beneficial use designations of the engineered channels in the Los Angeles River watershed, which is based on the results of the Board's re-evaluation of recreational use designations, also referred to as Recreational Use Reassessment (RECUR). The re-evaluation of the recreational use designations was conducted in response to previous comments from some representatives of the regulated community during other Board actions.

**Background on the Re-evaluation of Recreational Use Designations of the Engineered Channels of the Los Angeles River Watershed**

Beneficial uses are one of the primary drivers for the application of water quality objectives to the region's waterbodies. Therefore, the designation of beneficial uses has broad consequences regarding the actions of the Los Angeles Water Board to fulfill its mission to preserve and enhance water quality in the region for present and future generations.

During the 2008-2010 Triennial Review, in consideration of requests from some representatives of the regulated community to reconsider the suitability of water contact recreation use designations in engineered channels, the Los Angeles Water Board selected the re-evaluation of recreational beneficial use designations in engineered channels in the Los Angeles Region as a priority project (Resolution No. R10-001). Following this, Los Angeles Water Board staff conducted a comprehensive assessment of the recreational uses of all the engineered channels in the Los Angeles River system, which concluded in December 2013.

This assessment consisted of field reconnaissance, coordinated field monitoring events, web-based and in-person surveys, review of relevant studies, reports and watershed and sub-watershed management plans, compilation and analysis of water depth data, collaboration with interested persons and agencies, and consideration of on-going revitalization efforts to improve or provide recreational opportunities in these river channels. Interested persons and agencies



were kept involved throughout the evaluation process, through voluntary participation in the assessment and/or stakeholder workshops and updates to the Los Angeles Water Board.

The results of the assessment are presented in a two-part document. Part I identifies the existing policy and guidance on beneficial use assessment; background on the Los Angeles River system; the methodology used for the recreational use re-evaluation; and presents the detailed results of the assessment. Part I of the draft document was released for public review and comment in December 2013. Interested persons and agencies were invited to submit comments on the draft document, including potential actions to be taken by the Los Angeles Water Board relative to the current recreational use designations in light of the report's findings and any pertinent information not included in the draft report relevant to recreational uses of the engineered channels. All written comments on the draft report received by the February 28, 2014 comment deadline were reviewed by Los Angeles Water Board staff. The draft report was revised as appropriate in response to comments with a focus on adding relevant information that was not initially included in the draft report and correcting any erroneous information.

There have been a number of significant regulatory and planning activities related to the recreational uses and opportunities for these channels, which have coincided with the timing of the assessment period, and were taken into consideration during this evaluation process. Some of these include:

- U.S. EPA's confirmation of the Los Angeles River as a Traditional Navigable Waterway;
- Inclusion of the river in the Federal Urban Rivers Partnership Pilot Program;
- Passage of Senate Bill 1201 directing the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to provide for public use of navigable waterways under the district's control that are suitable for recreational and educational purposes.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' issuance of permits for water contact recreational activities in certain reaches of the mainstem and the development of water contact recreation programs in these areas;
- Completion of a feasibility study for restoration and revitalization of certain areas along the river, and the selection of a project alternative to receive federal funding.

Los Angeles Water Board staff conducted the re-evaluation of the current recreational use designations of these engineered channels based on results of the assessment contained in Part I of the RECUR Report, along with consideration of stakeholder comments and on-going regulatory and project developments related to the support and development of recreational opportunities in these engineered channels. This assessment, contained in Part II of the report (i.e. the draft Staff Report), concludes that the current existing, potential, and intermittent recreational use designations for the engineered channels remain appropriately established and supported. Therefore, Los Angeles Water Board staff recommends that the Los Angeles Water Board adopt a resolution retaining the current recreational beneficial use designations in these channels.

#### **I. MEETING DATE AND LOCATION**

The Los Angeles Water Board will hold a public meeting to consider adopting the tentative resolution retaining the current recreational beneficial use designations. It is anticipated that the Los Angeles Water Board will take action on the tentative resolution. The Board is scheduled to consider this matter at its meeting on:

**Date:** Thursday, December 4, 2014

**Time:** 9:00 AM



**Place:** City of Culver City Council Chambers  
9770 Culver Boulevard  
Culver City, California 90232

Please check the Los Angeles Water Board's website (<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/>) for the most up-to-date public meeting 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 or [Theresa.Rodgers@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Theresa.Rodgers@waterboards.ca.gov) at least five working days prior to the meeting.

## II. AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

The tentative resolution and draft Staff Report (i.e. Part II of the RECUR report) are available on the Los Angeles Water Board's website at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/).

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. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Arrangements for file review and/or obtaining copies of the documents 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

Persons wishing to comment on the tentative resolution and Staff Report 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 meeting, all written comments must be received by the Board no later than **5:00 PM on November 6, 2014**. Untimely submittal of 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 into the administrative record.

Please be advised that written comments on Part I of the draft RECUR Report have already been solicited, received, and considered by Board staff. Part I of the draft RECUR report was revised as appropriate in response to comments with a focus on adding relevant information that was not initially included in the report and correcting any erroneous information. Therefore, comments should be limited to the re-evaluation of recreational beneficial uses contained in the draft Staff Report (Part II of the RECUR Report) and the tentative resolution retaining the current use designations.

Interested persons are encouraged to submit comments electronically by e-mail to: [Ginachi.Amah@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Ginachi.Amah@waterboards.ca.gov). Please indicate in the subject line, "Comment Letter – Retaining Recreational Beneficial Uses." Written comments submitted through e-mail 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. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Interested persons are also invited to attend the meeting and present oral comments. Oral presentations should be summarized in writing to the extent possible. Oral comments may be limited to 3 minutes each. Interested persons seeking more than 3 minutes to present oral comments must contact Dr. Amah, as provided in Section IV below, no later than **12:00 pm on December 1, 2014** to request additional time. Interested persons will be advised prior to the date of the meeting of the amount of time they will be allocated.

#### **IV. LOS ANGELES WATER BOARD STAFF CONTACT**

For additional information regarding this proposed action, please contact Dr. Ginachi Amah at (213) 576-6685 or [Ginachi.Amah@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Ginachi.Amah@waterboards.ca.gov).