



1444 9th Street
Santa Monica CA 90401

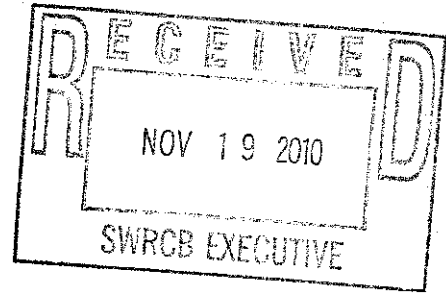
ph 310 451 1550
fax 310 496 1902

info@healthebay.org
www.healthebay.org

Public Comment
McGrath Lake Toxicity TMDL
Deadline: 11/30/10 by 12 noon

November 19, 2010

Chairman Charles R. Hoppin and Board Members
State Water Resources Control Board
1101 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
Sent Via Email [commentletters@waterboard.ca.gov]



Re: Comment Letter – McGrath Lake Toxicity TMDL

Dear Chair Hoppin and Board Members:

On behalf of Heal the Bay, we submit the following comments on the proposed Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan to Incorporate a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), Organochlorine Pesticides and Sediment Toxicity in McGrath Lake ("Draft TMDL" or "Draft Toxics TMDL"). We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments. McGrath Lake is an extremely important habitat in the Los Angeles Region. It is one of the last back dune lakes in the state and provides important habitat for many birds including the endangered Ventura Marsh Milkvetch, which was once thought to be extinct. Although many of the constituents this TMDL addresses have been banned, they are strongly bound to soils in the basin and are still migrating into the lake from land upstream. Thus, a strong TMDL is critical to protect the habitat and ensure beneficial uses are attained.

We strongly support the Draft TMDL adopted by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board on October 1, 2009 (Resolution No. R09-006). This TMDL sets out to address both the pollution inputs that currently enter the lake through main drainage ditches that feed into the lake and legacy pollution within the lake sediment. In particular, we support the reasonable concentration-based load allocations ("LAs") chosen for this TMDL. We also support the fact that there are both sediment and water column targets included in this TMDL, providing protection on both fronts. The sediment targets based on ERLs are reasonable and protective numeric limits. We also support the requirement for sediment toxicity monitoring. We urge the State Board to retain these positive attributes of the TMDL. Our one concern is that the implementation schedule lasts 14 years. While we would have preferred a shorter schedule, we believe it is important that the State Board move forward this critical TMDL.



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In sum, we believe the Draft TMDL is the best way to meet the threshold of attaining and maintaining water quality standards as set forth in the Clean Water Act, and thus, strongly support the proposed TMDL. If you have any questions, please contact us at 310-451-1500.

Sincerely,

Kirsten James, MESM
Water Quality Director

W. Susie Santilena, MS, E.I.T.
Water Quality Scientist