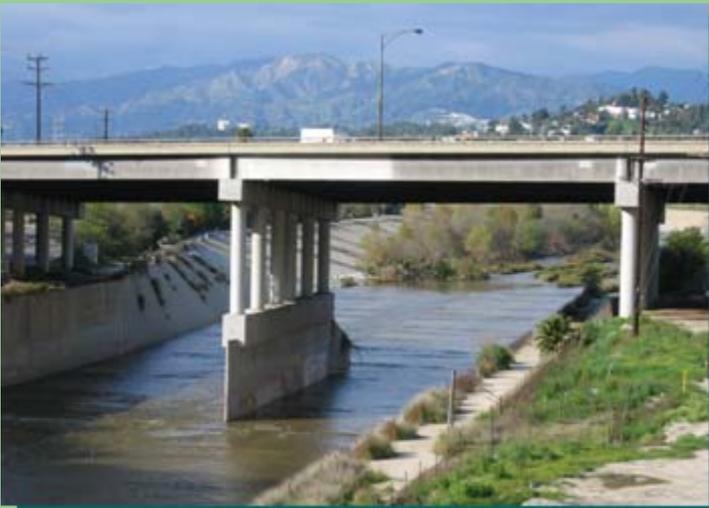


# Item Nos. 7 and 8 Los Angeles River and Tributaries and Ballona Creek Metals TMDLs

June 17, 2008

Nick Martorano and Michael Buckman



# Comments

- 7 Comments for the LA River TMDL, 1 was late
- 5 Comments for the Ballona Creek TMDL
- Responses

# Recommendation and Questions

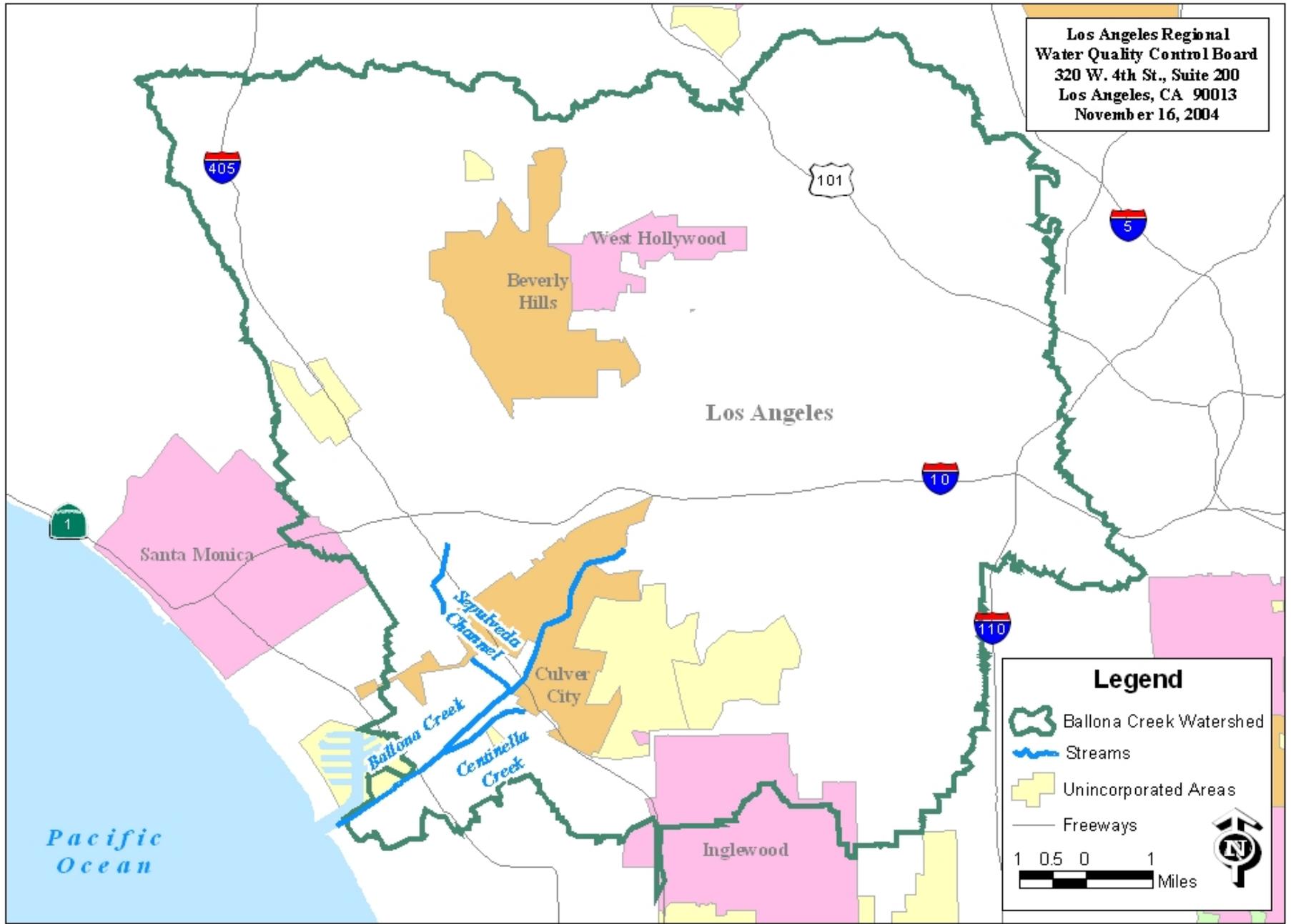
- Approval of the TMDLs
- Questions?

# Metals TMDL History

- 1998 303(d) list: Waterbodies listed
- March 23, 1999: Consent decree entered
- June 2, 2005: RB adopted LA River Metals TMDL
- July 7, 2005: RB adopted Ballona Creek Metals TMDL
- January 11, 2006: TMDLs became effective
- February 16, 2006: Eight cities filed petition for writ of mandate, challenging both TMDLs on CEQA and other grounds



# Ballona Creek Watershed and Streams



Los Angeles Regional  
Water Quality Control Board  
320 W. 4th St., Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
November 16, 2004

**Legend**

- Ballona Creek Watershed
- Streams
- Unincorporated Areas
- Freeways

1 0.5 0 1 Miles

# Metals TMDLs Overview

- Similar approach for all Metals TMDLs in Region
- Numeric Targets
  - CTR: Adjusted for hardness
- Waste Load Allocations
  - Mass-based: POTWs and Storm Water Permits
  - Concentration-based: Minor and General Non-storm Water NPDES Permits and POTWs
- Load Allocations
  - Mass-based: Direct Air Deposition and Open Space

# Metals TMDLs Implementation

- WLAs translated into permit limits upon issuance, reissuance, or reopening

## Compliance Schedules

- Individual NPDES Permits: up to Jan 2011
- POTWs with advanced treatment: up to Jan 2016
- General Storm Water Permits: Jan 2016
- MS4 and Caltrans extended compliance schedules
  - Jan 2028 for Los Angeles River
  - Jan 2021 for Ballona Creek

# Alternatives Analysis – CEQA

## California Environmental Quality Act

- Alternatives analyzed based on:
  - Is it feasible?
  - Does it achieve the project purposes?
  - Does it avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project?
- Program-level alternatives to TMDL
  - Alternatives to TMDL as a whole
  - Court ruled that analysis of implementation alternatives was adequate

# Alternatives Analysis - CEQA

- Alternative 1: TMDLs as proposed
  - State-developed TMDLs
  - Comply with consent decree
  - Contain implementation plans
  - TMDLs for all impaired reaches
  - TMDLs for all impaired beneficial uses, including those designated as “potential” uses
  - Feasible
  - Achieves project purposes

# Alternatives Analysis - CEQA

- Alternative 2: TMDL for reaches on 1998/2002 303(d) List, but not the impaired unlisted reaches
- Alternative 3: TMDL for reaches with “probable future” uses, but not the “potential” beneficial uses
- Alternative 4: Memorandum of Understanding in lieu of TMDL or TMDL implementation
- Alternative 5: USEPA-established TMDL
- Alternative 6: No TMDL alternative

# Conclusion

## Staff Recommendation

- Re-approve the TMDL as presented
  - Approve CEQA Alternatives Analysis
  - Keep compliance dates tied to original effective date of January 11, 2006
- Comments and questions