California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region

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Matthew Rodriquez
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TO: Interested Persons

FROM: R. Veiga Nascimento for
Renee A. Purdy
Chief, Regional Programs
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

DATE: December 1, 2011

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF FEBRUARY 2, 2012 BOARD HEARING ON THE 2011-2013 TRIENNIAL REVIEW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) will hold a public hearing on the 2011-2013 Triennial Review to consider and adopt 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 February 2, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, California

The California Water Code 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 Regional 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 Regional Board staff no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 2, 2012.** Written comments should be submitted electronically to rb4triennial@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 (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: Rebecca Veiga Nascimento

For additional information, contact Rebecca Veiga Nascimento at (213) 576-6784 or rveiga@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 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 Regional Board should address in the future 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 Regional 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 Regional Board reviews water quality standards and identifies issues for possible Basin Plan amendments. In the second phase, the Regional Board prioritizes the standards-related issues that will be further researched and addressed through subsequent Basin Plan amendments. Finally, during the third phase, the Regional 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 2008 - 2010. The current triennial review began in the fall of 2011. As a first step in the triennial review process, staff reviewed information and comments submitted by stakeholders during previous reviews, as well as needs and suggestions from various Regional Board programs, and identified eight basin planning issues for initial consideration in the 2011- 2013 review. On August 3, 2011, Regional Board staff sent out a public notice inviting stakeholders to a public meeting on September 14, 2010 to discuss the 2011- 2013 Triennial Review and to solicit comments on any basin planning issue or project they would like the Regional Board to consider. The deadline for submission of written comments was October 14, 2011. In all, Regional Board staff received 12 comment letters representing various cities, counties, and coalitions; industry and agricultural interests; environmental organizations; water and sanitation districts; and private citizens. Stakeholder issues of concern contained in these comment letters were reviewed and considered when developing the staff report and Board resolution. The public meeting and comment solicitation and the identification of potential projects constitutes 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 February 2, 2012 at which the Regional Board will consider adoption of a resolution identifying the basin planning priorities to be investigated and further considered over the next three years.