

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region

NOTICE OF FILING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Draft Substitute Environmental Document for a Basin Plan Amendment Incorporating the State Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation, and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems, Changing the Nitrate Water Quality Objective for Groundwater, and Making Other Updates

Lead Agency: California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region

Project Title: Basin Plan Amendment Incorporating the State Water Board Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy, Changing the Water Quality Objective for Nitrate for Groundwater, and Making Other Updates

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Project Location: San Diego Region

This is to advise that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) is proposing to amend its *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (9)* (Basin Plan)¹ in accordance with a regulatory program exempt under section 21080.5 of the Public Resources Code from the requirement to prepare environmental documents under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.) and with other applicable laws and regulations. A draft Substitute Environmental Document (SED) has been prepared to assess environmental impacts from the San Diego Water Board's proposed action to amend the Basin Plan. A copy of the draft SED, Basin Plan amendment and other relevant documents are available online at:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/>

The San Diego Water Board is accepting written comments on the draft SED and proposed Basin Plan amendment. Written comments must be submitted to the San Diego Water Board by 5:00 P.M on February 16, 2015. Written comments should be submitted in Microsoft Word or Portable Document Format (pdf) to sandiego@waterboards.ca.gov, and addressed to Mr. Fisayo Osibodu. Written comments received after February 16, 2015,

¹ See Basin Plan on-line at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/index.shtml

will not be considered by the San Diego Water Board. The Basin Plan amendment will be considered for adoption during the public hearing at the San Diego Water Board meeting on **April 15, 2015 at 9:00 A.M.** Oral comments will also be received at the board hearing.

The board meeting/public hearing will be held at:

Wednesday, April, 15 2015, 9:00 A.M
San Diego Water Board, Board Meeting Room
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100; San Diego, California 92108

Background/Project Description: The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses of water bodies, establishes water quality objectives for the protection of these beneficial uses, and outlines a plan of implementation for maintaining and enhancing water quality. The San Diego Water Board is proposing to amend to its Basin Plan. The proposed project consists of making the following revisions to the Basin Plan:

1. Revise Chapter 3 (Water Quality Objectives) to establish the water quality objective for nitrate in groundwaters in hydrologic areas/subareas with numeric limits, except the Warner Valley Hydrologic Area, to 45 mg/L as NO₃, which represents the maximum contaminant levels for drinking water. This will impact hydrologic areas/subareas where the numeric limits are currently less than 45 mg/L as NO₃.
2. Revise provisions of Chapter 4 (Implementation) regarding regulation of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems, incorporate the OWTS Policy into the Basin Plan, and make minor corrections to other sections regarding Waste Discharge Requirements.
3. Revise Chapter 4 (Implementation) to add implementation provisions for the nitrate groundwater quality objective to protect surface water quality where groundwater and surface water are interconnected.
4. Revise Chapter 5 (Plans and Policies) to include descriptions of the State Water Board Policies for OWTS (2012) and Recycled Water (2009, as amended in 2013).
5. Delete the expired conditional waivers of waste discharge requirements from the Basin Plan and make other minor non-substantive changes to the Basin Plan.

Changes to the proposed Basin Plan amendment, consistent with the general purpose of the amendment, may be considered by the board.

Directions and Parking: For directions to the San Diego Water Board Office, please refer to: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/about_us/contact_us/. Two-hour free parking is available on a first-come first-serve basis, and long term fee parking is available in an adjacent parking structure. The facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. The facility is also

accessible via public transit. Persons requiring additional accommodations should contact Ms. Chris Blank at chris.blank@waterboards.ca.gov or (619) 521-3382 at least 5 days prior to the workshop.

Any questions or concerns regarding the above subject should be directed to Ms. Jody Ebsen at 619-521-3965 or by email at Jody.Ebsen@waterboards.ca.gov.