
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT SCOPING MEETING

NUTRIENT TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD FOR THE SANTA MARGARITA RIVER ESTUARY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) will hold a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) public scoping meeting to provide information and receive public feedback on the proposed scope of the Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Santa Margarita River Estuary (Estuary). The meeting will be held at the following location and time:

**Thursday, January 14, 2016
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
City of Temecula Council Chambers
41000 Main Street, Temecula, CA 92590**

The intent of the CEQA scoping meeting is to assist us in determining the scope and content of the CEQA environmental document. During this scoping meeting, staff will provide an overview of the CEQA process, development of the Nutrient TMDL for the Estuary, and the proposed schedule for the project. Staff will receive public verbal comments regarding potential environmental impacts from the implementation of the TMDL, feasible alternatives, and potential mitigation measures. A quorum of Board members may be present at the meeting but no action will be taken.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Estuary was placed on the federal Clean Water Act 303(d) list in 1986 for eutrophic conditions caused by excessive inputs of nutrients (total nitrogen and total phosphorus). To correct the impairment a TMDL, total maximum daily load, is required. The TMDL represents two concepts. First, the TMDL represents a calculation of the direct sources and indirect sources of the pollutant, and any natural background sources; and second, the TMDL represents a strategy to restore an impaired waterbody so the water quality can once again meet applicable water quality standards.

Excessive loading of nutrients into the Estuary leads to blooms of nuisance algae, shading of beneficial aquatic algae and plants, and depletion of dissolved oxygen. These changes negatively affect existing beneficial uses in the Estuary. The beneficial

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uses described in the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (Basin Plan) as most sensitive to eutrophic conditions are Estuarine Habitat and Contact and Non-Contact Water Recreation.

In recent years, two significant sources of nutrients to the Estuary have been identified and eliminated. These are 1) treated sewage discharges and 2) groundwater dewatering from a transit project. The current focus is to reduce eutrophication in the Santa Margarita watershed by implementing best management practices to reduce and treat municipal storm water and agricultural runoff water. TMDL actions will comply with the Regional Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit, and potentially, a General Agricultural Order.

The San Diego Water Board is working collaboratively with stakeholders in the watershed to assess the Estuary's current condition, develop numeric targets for algae that will lead to healthy levels of algae and to the attainment of beneficial uses in the estuary.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The Estuary's Nutrient TMDL is being developed and not yet available for public comment. A copy of the Estuary's TMDL Project Draft CEQA Checklist will be available electronically at least 10 days prior to the workshop on the San Diego Water Board Web site at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/tmdls/santa_margarita_river_estuary.shtml .

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

For directions to the City of Temecula Council Chambers, please refer

To: <http://www.cityoftemecula.org/Temecula/Government/CityHall/CityHall.htm> .

Persons requiring special accommodation should contact Hiram Sarabia at (619) 521-8037 or Hiram.Sarabia@waterboards.ca.gov at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.

From South of Temecula: Take 1-15 north to exit 58 for CA-79/Temecula Parkway toward Indio. Turn left onto Temecula Parkway (signs for Temecula/Old Town Front St.). Turn right onto Old Town Front St. Turn right onto 2nd St. Turn left onto Mercedes St. The meeting location will be on your right.

From North of Temecula: Take I-15 south to exit 59 for Rancho California Rd. Turn right onto Rancho California Rd. Turn left at the first cross street onto Old Town Front St. Turn left onto Moreno Rd. Turn right onto Mercedes St. The meeting location will be on your left.

Free parking is available on a first-come first-serve basis in the City Hall parking structure.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please direct any questions or concerns regarding the above subject to Mr. Hiram Sarabia by phone at 619-521-8037, or by email at Hiram.Sarabia@waterboards.ca.gov.