

Diane DuBois  
Vice Mayor

Steve Croft  
Council Member



Larry Van Nostran  
Mayor

11/15/06 Bd Mtg Item \_\_\_\_\_  
San Gabriel River TMDL  
Deadline: 10/27/06 12pm

Todd Rogers  
Council Member

Joseph Esquivel  
Council Member

October 27, 2006

Honorable Tam Doduc, Board Chair  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attn: Song Her, Clerk to the Board

**Subject: Comment Letter San Gabriel River Metals TMDL**



Dear Chair Doduc:

The City of Lakewood would like to provide the following comments on the San Gabriel River Metals TMDL (TMDL) for your consideration. While we support the State Water Resources Control Board's goals of improving surface water quality in the region, we have the following concerns:

- Many of the sources of metals found in surface waters are beyond the regulatory control of local government.
- Orange County (O.C.) Cities and Los Angeles (L.A.) County Cities should be regulated in a similar manner. The proposed TMDL provides unequal treatment for L.A. and O.C. cities in the watershed.
  - L.A. County cities will be held accountable for atmospheric deposition, while the cities in the Santa Ana Region are exempt.
  - The TMDL will result in the cities in L.A. County being given waste load allocations for metals beyond their regulatory control, while the O.C. cities are exempt. The TMDL's requirements within the watershed should be consistent between the two Regional Boards
- The State Board should suspend the metal reduction requirements in the San Gabriel River Metals TMDL until these studies are completed. The L.A. River was suspended until 2011.
- TMDL's Numeric Limits are infeasible at this time.
- Lack of a design storm complicates TMDL implementation. The TMDL requires compliance with all size of storm events, regardless of practicality or cost factors.
- An Environmental Impact Report or proper functional equivalent document (FED) for the TMDL must be prepared rather than the negative declaration proposed, given the potentially significant adverse environmental impacts that may result from the TMDL.

# Lakewood

- We are concerned that the City will have to finance the TMDL requirements with General Fund monies. As a result, the City would be required to reduce, eliminate or defer existing critical services to pay for the new TMDL requirements.
- The cities in the San Gabriel River Metals TMDL were given less time to comply than the cities affected by the L. A. River Metals TMDL. L.A. River cities have given between six and eight additional years to reach the dry and wet weather requirements.

The City of Lakewood requests that the State Board remand the TMDL to the Regional Board to address the concerns noted in this letter. We encourage the Board to strengthen its efforts to base regulations on sound science and methods, and to proceed in a manner that is practical, achievable and cost-effective. Moving forward in a practical and reasoned manner is especially critical, since many of the sources of metals found in surface waters are beyond the regulatory control of local government.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lisa Ann Rapp  
Director of Public Works

cc: