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## Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

**TO:** Interested Persons

**FROM:** LB Nye, PhD  
Section Manager, Regional Programs

**DATE:** June 8, 2023

**SUBJECT:** **REVISED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGION TO UPDATE FRESHWATER AMMONIA OBJECTIVES**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board) has postponed the June 22, 2023 public hearing to consider adopting amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan) to update the existing ammonia objectives in order to fully consider comments made on the Staff Report, tentative Board Resolution and tentative Basin Plan. A new public hearing date has not been scheduled.

The Los Angeles Water Board will hold a public hearing to consider adopting amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan) to update the existing ammonia objectives with the 2013 United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Aquatic Life Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Ammonia - Freshwater.

### I. BACKGROUND

The Basin Plan contains the water quality standards for the coastal watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties in the Los Angeles Region. These standards include water quality objectives that are described in Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan.

In 2013, U.S. EPA published an update to freshwater ammonia criteria that included all new toxicity data, particularly from sensitive freshwater mollusks. Based on the new datasets, U.S. EPA concludes that the overall sensitivity of freshwater mollusks, particularly unionid mussels, and non-pulmonate snails to ammonia is high. To incorporate the U.S. EPA updated criteria that accurately reflects the latest scientific knowledge for water bodies in the Los Angeles Region, the Los Angeles Water Board must formally adopt the updated 2013 U.S. EPA ammonia criteria as a Basin Plan amendment.

The proposed amendment to the Basin Plan will modify: (i) the acute (one-hour average), and (ii) the chronic (30-day average) freshwater ammonia objectives in Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan. The proposed water quality objectives for ammonia would take into account differences that affect the toxicity of ammonia between water bodies that have different beneficial uses.

Due to changes in temperature threshold of fish early life stage (ELS) with the 2013 U.S. EPA ammonia criteria, fish ELS would be presumably present in all streams in the Los Angeles Region and must be protected at all times of the year. Therefore, a new determination of where ELS are present will also be proposed.

## II. PUBLIC HEARING DATE AND ACCESSIBILITY

The Los Angeles Water Board will hold a public hearing to consider amending the Basin Plan to update freshwater ammonia objectives based on 2013 U.S. EPA Aquatic Life Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Ammonia – Freshwater. After hearing the Board staff's presentation and public comments, the Los Angeles Water Board is expected to take formal action on the proposed amendments to update the Basin Plan.

Please check the Los Angeles Water Board's website at: <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/> for the public hearing location and the most up-to-date public hearing date as they are subject to change. If there is not a quorum on the scheduled date of the public hearing, all items will be automatically continued to the next scheduled meeting. A continuance of the hearing will not automatically extend any deadlines set forth in this notice. Individuals requiring special accommodations or language needs are requested to contact Dr. Stefani Daryanto at 213-576-6763 or [Stefani.Daryanto@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Stefani.Daryanto@Waterboards.ca.gov) at least ten working days prior to the meeting.

## III. SCOPE OF HEARING

Interested persons may present relevant written and oral comments and evidence on the proposed Basin Plan amendments. Please be advised that comments or evidence concerning the appropriateness of any previously adopted Basin Plan amendments are not relevant to this action and will not be accepted or responded to. Comments shall be limited to the proposed update of freshwater ammonia objectives.

## IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUBMITTAL OF EVIDENCE

The Staff Report, tentative Board Resolution and tentative Basin Plan amendment are available on the website of the Los Angeles Water Board at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/)

Persons wishing to comment on the proposed Basin Plan amendment or submit evidence for the Los Angeles Water Board to consider are invited to submit them in writing. To be evaluated and responded to by Board staff, all written comments and evidence must be received **no later than 12:00 PM on May 24, 2023**. Untimely submittal of written comments will not be accepted or responded to by the Los Angeles Water Board.

Interested persons are encouraged to submit comments electronically to [RB4-BasinPlanLA@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:RB4-BasinPlanLA@waterboards.ca.gov) and a copy to [Stefani.Daryanto@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Stefani.Daryanto@Waterboards.ca.gov) with the subject line "**Comment Letter – Update to Basin Plan Ammonia Freshwater Quality Objectives**". Written comments submitted through email are requested to be transmitted in Microsoft Word format. Where electronic submittal is not feasible, comments should be submitted to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Los Angeles Region  
Attn: Dr. Stefani Daryanto  
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Failure to comply with these requirements is grounds for the Los Angeles Water Board to refuse to admit the proposed written comment or exhibit into evidence pursuant to section 649.4, Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations.

Interested persons are also invited to attend the hearing and present oral comments to the Los Angeles Water Board. To the extent possible, oral presentations should summarize any submitted written comments and evidence. An agenda for the June 22, 2023 Board meeting will be published 10 days prior to the Board meeting. This agenda will include directions for submitting PowerPoint presentations or visual aids for the meeting, information on time limits for speakers and directions on how to request a greater length of time to speak. Typically, if a person intends to use a PowerPoint presentation or other visual aids, they must be received by the Los Angeles Water Board's IT Department at least 48 hours prior to the meeting and will not be accepted after that time. Oral comments are generally limited to 3 minutes each, but time limitations may be adjusted, depending on the number of persons wishing to be heard. Interested persons seeking more than the established time limit to present oral comments at the hearing must contact the Los Angeles Water Board staff contact identified below at [least 5 working days prior to the Board meeting](#) to request additional time.

Should the Los Angeles Water Board adopt this Basin Plan amendment, the amendment will also require approval by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board). When considering approval of a Regional Water Board's adoption of Basin Plan amendments, the State Water Board may refuse to accept any comments that were not timely raised before the Regional Water Board. Therefore, interested persons are strongly encouraged to make all comments on this proposed action to the Los Angeles Water Board before or during the public hearing.

#### V. FUTURE NOTIFICATIONS

Any person desiring to receive future notices from the Los Angeles Water Board regarding the proposed amendment must sign up for the Los Angeles Water Board's email subscription list at: [Email Subscriptions | California State Water Resources Control](#)

[Board](#). Select “RB4 – Los Angeles Region” and then the “Basin Planning” Subscription Topic.

#### VI. LOS ANGELES WATER BOARD STAFF CONTACTS

For additional information regarding this proposed action, please contact Dr. Stefani Daryanto at [Stefani.Daryanto@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Stefani.Daryanto@Waterboards.ca.gov) or 213-576-6763.