

Linda S. Adams

Acting Secretary for Environmental Protection California Regional Water Quality Control Board Los Angeles Region

> 320 West Fourth Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, California 90013 (213) 576-6600 • Fax (213) 576-6640 http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles



Edmund G. Brown Jr. Governor

July 5, 2011

## SOLICITATION OF PROPONENTS FOR INCLUSION ON THE SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT PROPONENT LIST

## To Interested Parties:

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board), is the public agency responsible for protecting water quality in the coastal watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. As part of its activities, the Regional Board may issue administrative civil liability complaints (ACLCs) to dischargers in response to violations of the California Water Code, including waste discharge requirements, discharge prohibitions, enforcement orders, or other orders of the Regional Board. Monetary assessments collected through resolution of ACLCs are paid to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA). The State Board administers the CAA, and funds are used to address important water quality cleanup and abatement activities through the state.

As an alternative to depositing the entirety of the ACLC assessments in the CAA, the Regional Board may allow a portion of the assessment to be used for important and valuable water quality improvement projects within the Region, known as Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs). SEPs shall directly benefit or study groundwater or surface water quality or quantity, and restore or enhance the beneficial uses of the waters of the State within the Region. They must also provide a benefit to the public at large, and are not otherwise required of the discharger by any rule or regulation of any federal, state, or local entity or proposed as mitigation to offset the impacts of a discharger's project(s). The requirements for SEPs are contained in the State Board Policy on Supplemental Environmental Projects (Policy) and is available on our website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water issues/programs/enforcement/index.shtml.

The Policy guides the evaluation of SEPs by Regional Board staff to ensure that the selected projects have environmental value, further the enforcement goals of the State Board and Regional Boards (Water Boards), and are subject to appropriate input and oversight by the Water Boards.

On June 2, 2011, the Regional Board directed staff to implement a SEP Proponent List, to include proponent contacts and projected SEPs in different watersheds within the Region. The SEP Proponent List will facilitate the development of SEPs in the Los Angeles Region and will be implemented in accordance with the Policy. The SEP Proponent List will allow the Regional Board to effectively expand the number of SEPs in our region to address water quality issues.

Please note that this list will not be pre-screened by Regional Board staff for eligibility, rather, after a discharger contacts you to collaborate on a SEP, the SEP will be submitted to the

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## SEP Proponent List Solicitation

Regional Board for review. It will be at this time that the Regional Board will inform the proponent and discharger if the SEP meets the requirements set forth in the 2009 SEP Policy.

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The Regional Board would like to invite your organization to become a part of our online SEP Proponent List. Please use the document attached and provide the agency's name, address, contact person(s), phone number(s), email address(es), project name(s) (if any), which watershed(s) your project(s) would fall under, and a one paragraph description of each project. Please email the completed form to <u>kkao@waterboards.ca.gov</u> or mail to:

Kristie Kao Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board 320 West 4th Street, Suite 200 Los Angeles, CA 90013

The SEP Proponent List will be posted on our website at the web address above and will be available to all dischargers to access.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Hugh Marley at (213) 620-6375 or Ms. Kristie Kao at (213) 620-6368.

Attachment

Sincerely,

Samuel Ungen

Samuel S. Unger Executive Officer

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