



Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD SANTA ANA REGION

NOTICE OF CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

Proposed Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin to Extend the Schedule for Attaining the Middle Santa Ana River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Loads for Bacterial Indicators in Wet Winter Conditions

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (Santa Ana Water Board) will hold a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting regarding a proposed amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (Basin Plan) to extend the schedule for attaining the Middle Santa Ana River Watershed Bacterial Indicator Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in wet winter conditions (Basin Plan Amendment).

Members of the public are invited to participate in the meeting. The scoping meeting will provide participants the opportunity to comment on the appropriate scope and content of the Substitute Environmental Document (SED) that will be prepared pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.5, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15251(g), and title 23, section 3777 for the proposed Basin Plan Amendment.

The CEQA scoping meeting will be held on the following date and time, in person and virtually:

- Date:** January 09, 2023
- Time:** 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- Location:** Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA)
11615 Sterling Avenue
Riverside, CA 92503

Virtual Participation Information:

Meeting Access Via Computer (Zoom):	
https://sawpa.zoom.us/j/87237303300?pwd=MjdlQUU1oZVR4NXhQVXRUCzFvbXQ5dz09	
Meeting Access Via Telephone: 1 (669) 900-6833	
• Meeting ID: 872 3730 3300	• Meeting Password: 122213

The purpose of the scoping meeting is for Santa Ana Water Board staff to seek input from public agencies and members of the public on the range of project actions and alternatives, reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance, significant and cumulative impacts, and mitigation measures, if any, to be analyzed prior to the decision-making process on the proposed Basin Plan Amendment. Comments received regarding the scope and content of environmental issues will be considered in the SED that will be prepared for the proposed Basin Plan Amendment. Scoping may also assist the Santa Ana Water Board in resolving concerns of affected federal, state, and local agencies and other interested persons. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 3775.5.)

During the CEQA scoping meeting, Santa Ana Water Board staff will provide an overview of the SED process and the proposed Basin Plan Amendment. Santa Ana Water Board staff will then solicit questions and written and verbal comments from the public regarding potential alternatives for the proposed Basin Plan Amendment, potential significant environmental impacts, and mitigation measures for the proposed amendment that should be considered as part of the decision-making process. No formal action by the Santa Ana Water Board will be taken at the CEQA scoping meeting.

BACKGROUND

In 2005, the Santa Ana Water Board adopted Resolution No. R8-2005-0001, establishing TMDLs for bacterial indicators in Santa Ana River Reach 3, Chino Creek Reach 1, Chino Creek Reach 2, Mill Creek (Prado Area), Cucamonga Creek Reach 1, and Prado Park Lake (Middle Santa Ana River Watershed). The adopted Bacteria TMDLs included numeric targets based, in part, on the fecal coliform water quality objective specified in the Basin Plan for the protection of body-contact recreation (REC1) in inland surface waters. Alternative numeric targets for *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) were also specified based on criteria recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The dates for meeting the TMDLs vary based on the weather condition. For dry summer conditions (April 1 through October 31), TMDLs for *E. coli* needed to be met no later than December 31, 2015; and, for wet winter conditions (November 1 through March 31), TMDLs for *E. coli* need to be met no later than December 31, 2025.

Watershed stakeholders have been working cooperatively to implement projects to comply with the Bacteria TMDLs, as well as conducting extensive monitoring of the watershed and conducting source evaluations. Projects completed to date have improved water quality in the Middle Santa Ana River Watershed during dry summer conditions, due in part to the diversion of dry summer month discharges from urban facilities away from the Middle Santa Ana River waterbodies. Diversion of flows during the wet winter period is more difficult due to the volume of flow that needs to be managed.

Santa Ana Water Board staff are proposing limited revisions to the Basin Plan that would extend the wet winter conditions TMDL compliance deadline from December 31,

2025, to December 31, 2035, and that would update the implementation plan to identify additional control measures designed to address bacterial indicators during wet winter conditions. Proposed limited revisions may also provide clarifications regarding application of the wet winter condition TMDLs during times when beneficial uses are suspended due to high flows, as expressed in other parts of the Basin Plan.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Santa Ana Water Board will accept written and oral comments. Staff will solicit oral comments at the CEQA scoping meeting. Persons wishing to submit written comments are requested to do so as soon as possible, but no later than **5:00 p.m. on February 8, 2023**.

Interested persons may submit written comments via email to Barbara Barry at Barbara.Barry@waterboards.ca.gov using the subject line: "Comment Letter: CEQA Scoping MSAR TMDL extension." Hand deliveries and mailed comments should be sent to the address below:

Barbara Barry
3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside CA
92501-3348.

Written comments may also be faxed to the Santa Ana Water Board office at 951-781-6288.

Santa Ana Water Board staff will not prepare written responses to comments received at this meeting or to written comments submitted. However, Santa Ana Water Board staff will address all significant environmental impacts in the draft and final environmental documents.

ACCESSIBILITY AND LANGUAGE NEEDS

Any person who requires special accommodations or interpreter services to participate in the meeting should contact Edina Goode at EGoode@SAWPA.org or 951 354-4230 no later than 10 days before the scheduled meeting.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For questions regarding the CEQA scoping meeting or the proposed project, please contact Barbara Barry at Barbara.Barry@waterboards.ca.gov or 951-248-0375.

FUTURE NOTICES

Any change in the date, time, and place of the scoping meeting will be publicly noticed on the Santa Ana Water Board's [Public Notice](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/public_notices/public_notices.html) webpage (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/public_notices/public_notices.html) and through Lyris e-mail list.

Any person desiring to receive future notices regarding Middle Santa Ana River Watershed Bacterial Indicator TMDL Extension should sign up on the Lyris e-mail list by [Subscribing to our Electronic Mailing List](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg8_subscribe.html) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg8_subscribe.html)(Select the TMDL Riverside and San Bernardino Counties tab).