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STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
TBD

ITEM #

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGION (BASIN PLAN) TO INCORPORATE A TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD FOR BORON, CHLORIDE, SULFATE, AND TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS (SALTS) IN THE CALLEGUAS CREEK WATERSHED

DISCUSSION

On October 4, 2007, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) adopted Resolution No. R4-2007-016 (Attachment) amending the Basin Plan to incorporate a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for boron, chloride, sulfate, and total dissolved solids (TDS) (these constituents are commonly referred to as salts) in the Calleguas Creek Watershed. The Calleguas Creek Watershed is located in southeast Ventura County, California, and in a small portion of western Los Angeles County, and drains an area of approximately 343 square miles from the Santa Susana Pass in the east, to Mugu Lagoon in the southwest. Current land use is approximately 26 percent agriculture, 24 percent urban, and 50 percent open space. The tributaries and the streams of the Calleguas Creek Watershed are divided into 14 segments, or reaches. Eleven out of 14 reaches in the Calleguas Creek Watershed were originally identified on the 2002 Clean Water Act (CWA) section 303(d) list of water quality-limited segments as not meeting water quality standards due to elevated levels of boron, chloride, sulfate, and TDS. The listings were approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) on February 4, 2003. Additionally, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) added listings in Revolon Slough for TDS, sulfate, and boron. The listings were maintained on the 2006 303(d) list.

In the Calleguas Creek Watershed the agriculture irrigation and groundwater recharge beneficial uses are impaired because the waters are not meeting the numeric and narrative water quality objectives for salts set forth in the Basin Plan to protect those uses. Because the Calleguas Creek Watershed is listed as not meeting water quality standards, CWA section 303(d) requires that a TMDL be established. A TMDL specifies load allocations for nonpoint sources and waste load allocations for point sources that, when implemented, are expected to result in attainment of applicable water quality standards. The TMDL addresses impairments of water quality caused by these salts, and an Implementation Plan is developed to achieve water quality objectives for salts in the Calleguas Creek Watershed.

A consent decree between U.S. EPA, Heal the Bay, Inc., and BayKeeper, Inc. was approved on March 22, 1999, which resolved litigation between those parties relating to the pace of TMDL development. The court order directs U.S. EPA to ensure that TMDLs for all 1998-listed impaired waters be established within 13 years of the consent decree. The consent decree combined water body pollutant combinations in the Los Angeles Region into 92 TMDL analytical units. In accordance with the consent decree, the Calleguas Creek Salts TMDL addresses water bodies with salts listings in analytical units three and four. Based on the consent decree

schedule, a TMDL for chloride was adopted by U.S. EPA in March 2002 to address analytical unit 3. According to the consent decree, the remaining salts in analytical unit 4 (TDS, sulfate, and boron) TMDLs must be approved or established by U.S. EPA by March 2012. This TMDL would supersede the chloride TMDL for analytical unit 3 previously established by U.S. EPA as well as address analytical unit 4.

TMDL

The Basin Plan includes site-specific numeric water quality objectives for "Selected Constituents in Inland Surface Waters," which include the salts targeted in the TMDL. Los Angeles Water Board staff utilized these objectives to develop the load allocations and waste load allocations. In addition, the Calleguas Creek Modeling System and Salt Balance Models have been used in this TMDL to demonstrate that salts will be removed from the watershed and should have a correspondingly positive impact on surface water and groundwater concentrations of salts.

Waste load allocations apply during dry weather when the flows in the receiving water are below the 86th percentile flow. During wet weather, the loading capacity of the stream is significantly increased by stormwater flows with very low salt concentrations. Responsible parties assigned a waste load allocation are five Publicly Owned Treatment Works in the Calleguas Creek Watershed: Simi Valley Water Quality Control Plant, Hill Canyon Wastewater Treatment Plant, Moorpark Waste Water Treatment Plant, Camarillo Water Reclamation Plant, and Camrosa Water Reclamation Facility. In addition, waste load allocations are assigned to Municipal Stormwater Dischargers of the Cities of Camarillo, Moorpark, and Thousand Oaks, and the County of Ventura, Ventura County Watershed Protection District, and general industrial and construction permittees. Other National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) dischargers, including, but not limited to, permitted groundwater cleanup projects that could have significant salt concentrations as a result of the salts in the shallow groundwater basins being treated, would be assigned concentration-based waste load allocations.

Dry weather load allocations are assigned as a group allocation to irrigated agricultural discharges. The load allocations are equal to the average dry weather critical condition flow rate multiplied by the numeric target for each constituent. Load allocations apply in the receiving water at the base of each sub-watershed. Because wet weather flows transport a large mass of salts at a typically low concentration, these dischargers should meet water quality objectives during wet weather. Dry weather allocations apply when in-stream flow rates are below the 86th percentile flow, and there has been no measurable precipitation in the previous 24 hours.

The amendment states that the Los Angeles Water Board will implement this TMDL, which requires salt control practices designed to achieve load and waste load allocations through the use of stormwater permits. In addition, the implementation plan for the Salts TMDL includes regional and sub-watershed specific implementation actions. There are four key structural elements to the regional implementation: Regional Salinity Management Conveyance, Water Conservation, Water Softeners, and Best Management Practices for Irrigated Agriculture. Sub-watershed implementation includes Renewable Water Resource Management Program for the Southern Reaches and Northern Reach Renewable Water Management Plan. Responsible parties must comply with load and waste load allocations for salts in the Calleguas Creek Watershed within 15 years of approval.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board approve the amendment to the Basin Plan to incorporate a TMDL for boron, chloride, sulfate, and TDS (salts) in the Calleguas Creek Watershed as adopted under Los Angeles Water Board Resolution No. R4-2007-016?

FISCAL IMPACT

Los Angeles Water Board and State Water Board staff work associated with or resulting from this action will be addressed with existing and future budgeted resources.

REGIONAL WATER BOARD IMPACT

Yes, approval of this resolution will amend the Los Angeles Water Board's Basin Plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board:

1. Approves the amendment to the Basin Plan as adopted under Los Angeles Water Board Resolution No. R4-2007-016.

2. Authorizes the Executive Director or designee to submit the amendment adopted under Los Angles Water Board Resolution No. R4-2007-016 to the Office of Administrative Law for approval of the regulatory provisions and to U.S. EPA for approval of the TMDL.

D R A F T

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2008-

APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGION (BASIN PLAN) TO INCORPORATE A TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD FOR BORON, CHLORIDE, SULFATE, AND TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS (SALTS) IN THE CALLEGUAS CREEK WATERSHED

WHEREAS:

1. On October 4, 2007, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) adopted Resolution No. R4-2007-016 (Attachment) amending the Basin Plan to incorporate a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for boron, chloride, sulfate, and Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (these constituents are commonly referred to as salts) in the Calleguas Creek Watershed.

2. The Los Angeles Water Board's goal in establishing the TMDL for salts in Calleguas Creek Watershed is to protect the agricultural irrigation and groundwater recharge beneficial uses of the Calleguas Creek Watershed and to achieve the numeric and narrative water quality objectives set to protect those uses.

3. The Los Angeles Water Board found that the analysis contained in the Final Project Report, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) "Substitute Documents" for the Basin Plan amendment, including the CEQA Checklist, the staff report, and the responses to comments prepared by Los Angeles Water Board staff complies with the requirements of the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board's) certified regulatory CEQA process, as set forth in the California Code of Regulations, Title 23, section 3775 et seq.

4. The State Water Board finds that in amending the Basin Plan to establish this TMDL, the Los Angeles Water Board complied with the requirements set forth in sections 13240, 13242, and 13269 of the California Water Code. The State Water Board also finds that the TMDL is consistent with the requirements of federal Clean Water Act section 303(d).

5. The Los Angeles Water Board found that adoption of this amendment is consistent with the State Antidegradation Policy (State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16), in that the changes to water quality objectives (i) consider maximum benefits to the people of the state, (ii) will not unreasonably affect present and anticipated beneficial use of waters, and (iii) will not result in water quality less than that prescribed in policies.

6. Numeric targets expressed as loading capacities for the TMDL are based on the specific numeric water quality objectives provided in the Basin Plan. Surface water quality objectives for the Calleguas Creek Watershed are applicable upstream of Potrero Road. Site-specific objectives have not been determined for Calleguas Creek below Potrero Road. However, the Basin Plan provides beneficial use guidelines to determine criteria for selection of effluent limits to protect sensitive beneficial uses including agricultural supply. The Basin Plan also includes objectives for groundwater basins. Compliance with the targets will be based on a 15-year implementation schedule.

7. A Basin Plan amendment does not become effective until approved by the State Water Board and until the regulatory provisions are approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). The TMDL must also be approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

8. Los Angeles Water Board staff determined that minor, non-substantive changes to the language of the Basin Plan amendment was necessary to correct minor, non-substantive errors, to improve clarity and consistency. The Los Angeles Water Board's Executive Officer made these minor changes in memoranda dated February 22, 2008 and March 19, 2008.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Approves the amendment to the Basin Plan as adopted under Los Angeles Water Board Resolution No. R4-2007-016.

2. Authorizes the Executive Director or designee to submit the amendment adopted under Los Angeles Water Board Resolution No. R4-2007-016 to OAL for approval of the regulatory provisions and to U.S. EPA for approval of the TMDL.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Clerk to the Board does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on (TBD).

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Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board