



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Los Angeles Region



Linda S. Adams
Agency Secretary

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Eric Wu, Ph.D., P.E.
Chief, TMDL Unit 2

DATE: January 18, 2011

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)
SCOPING MEETING TO ESTABLISH THE ALGAE, EUTROPHIC, AND
NITROGEN TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) FOR VENTURA
RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES**

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) staff is in the process of establishing an Algae, Eutrophic, and Nitrogen TMDL for Ventura River and its tributaries. Pursuant to California Public Resources Code section 21083.9 and CEQA section 21080.5, Regional Board staff will conduct a CEQA scoping meeting to receive comments on the appropriate scope and content of the "functionally equivalent" substitute environmental documents supporting Basin Plan amendments that would establish the Algae, Eutrophic, and Nitrogen TMDL and the implementation plan.

The substitute environmental documents will be prepared pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.5, and the State Water Resources Control Board's regulations related to its Certified Regulatory Program (see 23 Cal. Code Regs. §3775 et seq.). The substitute environmental documents are intended to serve as planning level (Tier 1) environmental documents, consistent with Public Resources code Section 21159. A stakeholder meeting will also be conducted to facilitate the development of the proposed amendments.

The proposed amendments would involve:

- Incorporation of TMDLs for algae, eutrophic, and nitrogen in Ventura River and its tributaries.
- Incorporation of TMDL waste load allocations, load allocations, and implementation programs for algae, eutrophic, and nitrogen in Ventura River and its tributaries.

California Environmental Protection Agency



Our mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations

CEQA Scoping Meeting Time and Location:

Date: Tuesday, February 22, 2011
Time: 1:30 P.M.
Location: Community Meeting Room, Ventura City Hall, 501 Poli Street, Ventura, CA 93002

Please contact Dr. Kangshi Wang at (213) 576-6780, if you have any questions about this matter. An electronic mail may be received by visiting website:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg4_subscribe.shtml to subscribe the Lyris notification. Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

BACKGROUND

Ventura River and its tributaries (Ventura River Watershed) have been listed on the Clean Water Act 303(d) list as water quality impaired due to nutrients and the excessive algal growth. A Consent Decree signed between the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the Santa Monica BayKeeper, and Heal the Bay also requires a TMDL to be developed according to the 303(d) list. Table below presents the USEPA approved 2008 303(d) list of algae, eutrophic, and nitrogen impairments in the Ventura River Watershed.

Waterbody Name	Pollutant(s)
San Antonio Creek (Tributary to Ventura River Reach 4)	Nitrogen
Ventura River Estuary	Algae, Eutrophic
Ventura River Reach 1 and 2 (Estuary to Weldon Canyon)	Algae

The Ventura River Watershed consists of an area of 228 square miles. The Ventura River has several major tributaries including Matilija Creek, North Fork Matilija Creek, San Antonio Creek, Coyote Creek and Cañada Larga. The more urban uses are found in Ojai Valley and the lower portions of the watershed. The listed reaches have experienced excessive algal growth, elevated levels of nutrient concentrations, and low dissolved oxygen. The Basin Plan amendment will assign waste load allocations (WLA) and load allocations (LA) to dischargers and outline an implementation plan to enhance water quality.

Regional Board staff will consider available data and studies related to impairments caused by algal growth and nutrients, and solicit stakeholder involvement in the development of this TMDL.

cc: Jennifer Fordyce, Office of Chief Counsel, State Water Resources Control Board