

Regional Water Quality Control Boards

by
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Expert Science Panel Meeting #2
Agenda Item 4
Monday, April 12, 2021



Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Mission Statement

- *To preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water*
- *for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and*
- *to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use,*
- *for the benefit of present and future generations.*

Regional Water Quality Control Boards



1. North Coast Region

2. San Francisco Bay Region

3. Central Coast Region

4. Los Angeles Region

5. Central Valley Region

- Sacramento

- Fresno

- Redding

6. Lahontan Region

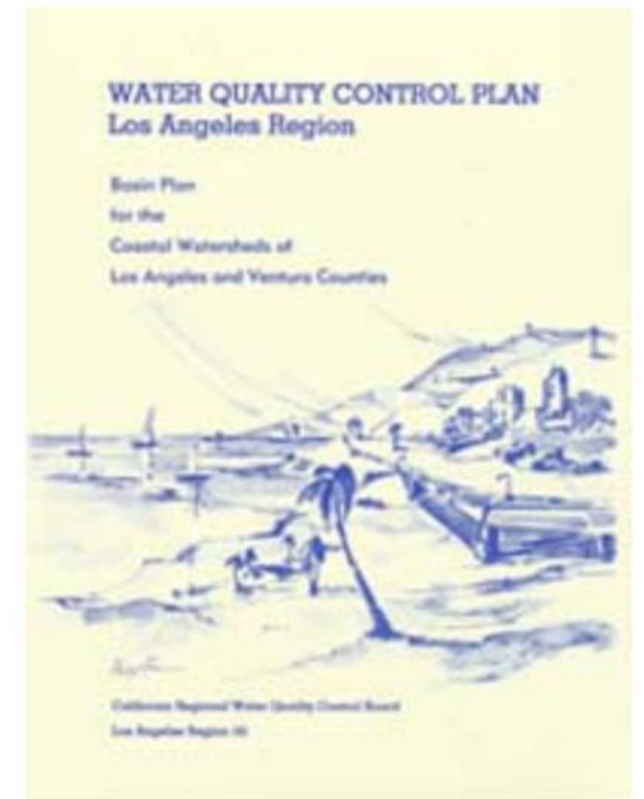
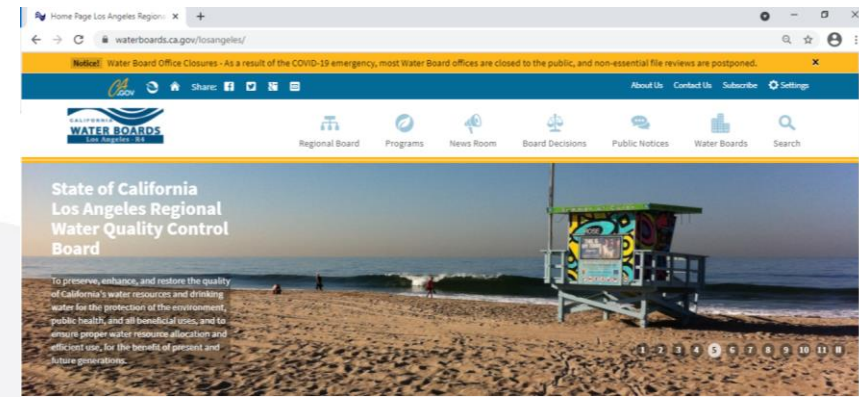
7. Colorado River Basin Region

8. Santa Ana Region

9. San Diego Region

Water Quality Control Plan - Basin Plan

- Identifies Waterbodies in the Region
- Designates Beneficial Uses (BU) - surface & groundwaters
- Sets Narrative and Numeric Water Quality (WQ) Objectives
- Describes implementation programs
- Incorporates by reference other plans, pertinent WQ policies & regulations



NPDES permits

- MOA - 1973 USEPA delegated authority to administer NPDES program to the State
 - Includes issuance, compliance monitoring, and enforcement
- NPDES regulates discharges to surface waters
- Permits expire after 5 years, so require renewal
- Staff drafts a Tentative permit
 - Review past data, conduct reasonable potential analysis
 - Incorporate new requirements to protect BUs, add new limits, delete existing limits if allowed by Anti-backsliding and Anti-degradation requirements
 - Justify limitations in the Fact Sheet
- Release for public comment & respond to comments
- Discussed & Adopted at a Board meeting
- USEPA can object to the NPDES permit
- Permit in effect 50 days after adoption

Beneficial uses

- Agricultural Supply (AGR)
- Cold Freshwater Habitat (COLD)
- Commercial and Sport Fishing (COMM)
- Estuarine Habitat (EST)
- Freshwater Replenishment (FRSH)
- Groundwater Recharge (GWR)
- Industrial Process Supply (PROC)
- Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN)
- Non-contact Recreation (REC-2)
- Water Contact Recreation (REC-1)
- Warm Freshwater Habitat (WARM)
- Wetland Habitat (WET)
- Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species (RARE)



Toxicity Water Quality Objective

All waters shall be maintained free of toxic substances in concentrations that are toxic to, or that produce detrimental physiological responses in, human, plant, animal, or aquatic life.



Timeline

July 2002

Region 4 adopts permits w/ Toxicity Limits w/TUc Units

July 2003

State Board issues Order to review on its own motion

May 2014

Region 4 adopts permits w/ TMDL-based limit & TST statistical analysis

Aug. 2015

Discharger files petitions

Dec. 2020

State Bd adopts Toxicity Provisions

Discharger files petition

Aug. 2002

State Bd Scoping Document

Dec 2005

Draft Toxicity Policy

2010 & 2012

Region 4 adopts amended permit w/ TST

July. 2015

State Bd releases Draft Toxicity Provisions

2018, 2019, 2020

Closing remarks

- We believe that toxicity data provides valuable information.
- We are hopeful that the *Ceriodaphnia dubia* study will lead to greater acceptance of the test method.
- We are eager
 - ✓ For the full approval of the Toxicity Provisions
 - ✓ To hear recommendations from the expert panel.
 - ✓ To find out what improvements can be made.

Thank you for sharing your expertise with us and for participating in the study.