



PROPOSED ACTION TO ADDRESS STORMWATER POLLUTION IN TWO LOS ANGELES WATERSHEDS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Pacific Southwest | Region 9

Open Period for Comments: July 26, 2022 to September 9, 2022

Water Division
July 2022

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What is happening?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board are taking action to reduce the discharge of pollutants in stormwater runoff in two [watersheds](#) – the Dominguez Channel/Greater Los Angeles and Long Beach Inner Harbor Watershed and the Los Cerritos Channel/Alamitos Bay Watershed. You are invited to participate in the open comment period from July 26, 2022 to September 9, 2022. **Public Notice has been extended to October 24, 2022.**

What is stormwater pollution?

Stormwater is rainwater that runs off streets, lawns, and other sites. When stormwater soaks into grass and soil, it is naturally filtered. It then slowly flows into streams, rivers, and the ocean. In many cities, hard surfaces such as such as paved streets, parking lots, and building rooftops stop precipitation from naturally soaking into the ground. Instead, water runs across these surfaces and can pick up and carry pollutants like trash, chemicals, and dirt. If there are more hard surfaces, more pollutants will flow into storm drains and be carried to rivers and oceans. Many of these pollutants can be harmful to people and animals that live in or near the water.

How have Los Angeles area waterbodies been affected?

In the Los Angeles area, waterbodies such as the Dominguez Channel and the Alamitos Bay are heavily impacted by stormwater pollution. As a result, people may not be able to swim or play in the water after it rains or at certain times of the year.

Background on EPA's Proposed Action

EPA and the Los Angeles Water Quality Control Board currently regulate stormwater discharges from city-owned streets and storm sewers. We also regulate stormwater discharges from industries such as petroleum refineries and construction sites. In addition, EPA or the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board can regulate stormwater discharges from other sources if we determine that those sources are causing water quality problems.

When stormwater discharges from a facility are regulated, the facility must apply for and comply with a [National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System \(NPDES\) Permit](#). A NPDES permit is typically a license for a facility to discharge treated water into a river or the ocean.

What is the proposed action?

Through this action, EPA is proposing to regulate stormwater discharges from certain privately owned commercial, industrial and institutional (CII) facilities. At the same time, the Los Angeles Water Quality Control Board is proposing a new NPDES permit for these newly designated facilities. The permit will require facilities to reduce the discharge of pollutants by installing treatment on-site. The facility can also make an agreement with the local government to capture and treat (or remove pollutants from) stormwater off-site.

What will be the benefits?

By requiring that stormwater discharges be treated, water quality will be improved in the communities in these two watersheds (see next page for list).

Who will be affected?

EPA is proposing to regulate (designate) stormwater runoff from privately owned CII facilities with five or more acres of paved or roofed surface. About 640 total facilities may be affected by this proposed action. The types of facilities include shopping malls, large office buildings, industrial warehouses, and distribution centers. For more details, see the [Proposed Designation \(pdf\)](#).

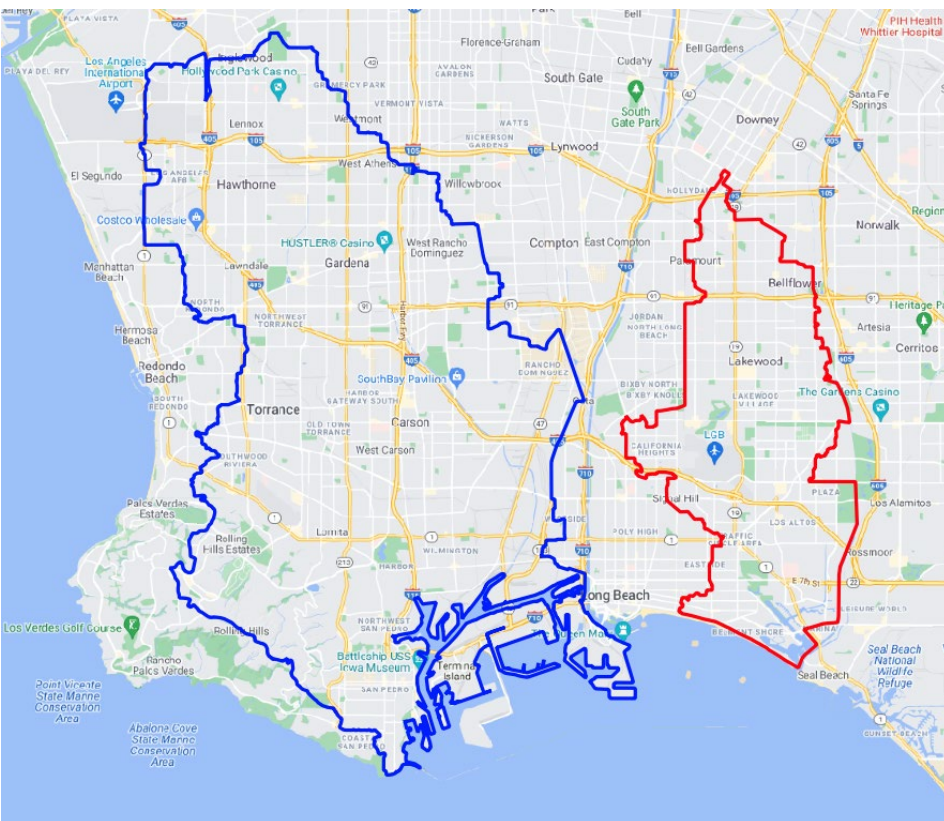
What is the timeline?

July 26, 2022: Proposed Designation and Draft NPDES Permit opened for public comment until Sept 9, 2022.
 August 2022: EPA and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board will hold a public workshop to discuss the proposed action. (Date TBD)
 Late 2022: EPA and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board anticipate finalizing the designation and NPDES Permit.

Where do I find more Information, and how do I provide feedback?

Information about EPA’s proposed designation is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/residual-designation-authority-address-stormwater-quality-problems-epas-pacific>. You can provide feedback on the Residual Designation by emailing questions or comments to EPA by **September 9, 2022** at R9RDA@epa.gov.

Information about the Los Angeles Water Quality Control Board’s proposed CII general permit can be found at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/stormwater/Commercial_Industrial_and_Institutional/index.html.



- | Cities within Dominguez Channel/LA & LB Harbor: | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Los Angeles | • Long Beach | • Carson |
| • Compton | • El Segundo | • Gardena |
| • Hawthorne | • Inglewood | • Lawndale |
| • Lomita | • Manhattan Beach | • Redondo Beach |
| • Harbor City | • Rolling Hills Estates | • Rolling Hills Estates |
| • Torrance | • Wilmington | • Rancho Palos Verdes |
| • San Pedro | • LA County | |
| • LA County Flood Control District | | |
| Cities within Los Cerritos Channel/Alamitos Bay: | | |
| • Bellflower | • Cerritos | • Downey |
| • Lakewood | • Long Beach | • Paramount |
| • Signal Hill | • LA County | • Lawndale |
| • LA County Flood Control District | | |

Figure 1: Outline of two watersheds that would be subjected to requirements under this action. *Dominguez Channel/greater Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbor (blue)*, and *Los Cerritos Channel/Alamitos Bay (red)*.