



## **Public Notice of Waste Discharge Requirements for the Middle-mile Broadband Network Initiative**

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Quality  
Water Quality Certification Program  
**Date Posted: July 14, 2023**

**Affected County: Statewide**

This public notice of draft Certification and Waste Discharge Requirements is provided in satisfaction of Water Code section 13167.5, which pertains to notice of waste discharge requirements. A public notice pertaining to waters of the United States in accordance with the requirements of Section 3858, Title 23, of the California Water Code was provided on May 30, 2023.

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff are proposing to regulate Middle-mile Broadband Network (MMBN) initiative projects pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Wat. Code, § 13000 et seq.). The MMBN initiative will result in impacts to both waters of the United States and other waters of the state. **Staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received during a 30-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this notice (July 14, 2023) and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period (August 12, 2023).** To submit comments, or if you have any questions, please contact the State Water Board staff person listed below.

### **State Water Resources Control Board Contact:**

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**Date of Certification Request: February 16, 2023**

Pursuant to federal law (Title 33, United States Code, Section 1341; Clean Water Act Section 401), applicants for a federal license or permit for activities that may discharge to waters of the United States must seek Water Quality Certification from the state or Indian tribe with jurisdiction. Such Certification is based on a finding that the discharge will meet water quality standards and other applicable requirements. In California, Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) issue or deny Certification for discharges within their geographical jurisdiction. The State Water Board has this responsibility for projects affecting waters within multiple Regional Water Board jurisdictions.

***KEEP INFORMED OF PROJECT MILESTONES***

To be informed of milestones in the development of this proposed Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification, any interested persons should enroll in the State Water Board's 401 Program e-mail notification service.

Click the "Subscribe directly to the 401 Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Program Email List" button at the upper right of the [401 Program Webpage](#) at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/index.shtml)

Enter your email address and click "Submit." By enrolling in this list, you will receive notices for all current 401 applications, including the initiative announced in this notice. You will need a valid e-mail address to use this service. You can enroll or un-enroll at any time. If you do not have internet access or do not wish to participate in the email list, contact the staff person named in the notice to express your interest in receiving notices by other means.