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## State Water Resources Control Board

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC STAFF WORKSHOP

## STATEWIDE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the State Water Resources Control Board (“State Water Board”) will hold a public staff workshop to present information on the impact of nutrient discharges on inland and ocean waters and activities underway or planned to address nutrients.

**Staff Workshop**  
**Thursday, May 18, 2023**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**Video and Teleconference Only**  
**No Physical Meeting Location**

**Remote participation only at:**

[Zoom Registration](#)

Video broadcast: <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/>

If you plan to actively participate in the workshop, please register at the Zoom registration link above. The Video broadcast link is available for those who only wish to view the workshop as the broadcast link does not allow active participation.

Although one or more State Water Board members may be present at the workshop, there will be no quorum of Board members and no formal action will be taken.

### **BACKGROUND**

pH and oxygen levels are falling in ocean waters. Most of these changes result from global climate change, but in some places, local discharges of human sources of nutrients can exacerbate this problem. The Ocean Protection Council’s Strategic Plan (2020) identified assessment of how land-based nitrogen sources affect ocean conditions in California as a next step in developing management strategies and the Ocean Protection Council has funded the development of a coupled physical-biogeochemical model to achieve that. A consortium of scientists led by the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) has developed a state-of-the-art ocean model and has used it to assess how coastal ocean health is affected by local nutrient discharges (see fact sheet at [CoastalWaterQualityModeling.pdf \(sccwrp.org\)](#)). Preliminary findings from the modeling indicate that human sources of nutrients do cause measurable changes in ocean chemistry (reduce pH and oxygen) and that these

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

changes reduce the available volume of ocean habitat by up to 30% over 25% of the Southern California Bight during 3 months of the year in late summer.

Recognizing these findings are preliminary and there is more work needed to validate and independently review the model, State Water Board staff are very concerned about the impacts from human sources of nutrients on marine life along California's coast. While it will take several years to establish regulatory standards for nutrients for the state, immediate action is needed to address impacts from nutrients and to take advantage of infrastructure funding available now.

## **PURPOSE**

This workshop is intended to identify and discuss immediate actions the State Water Board could take to incentivize wastewater agencies to evaluate the feasibility of reducing nutrients as part of their future planning for facility upgrades including recycled water projects.

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Introduction**  
State Water Board staff will review the workshop agenda and present a summary of the impetus and desired outcomes for the workshop.
- 2. Status of Nutrient Standards Development**  
State Water Board staff will provide a status update on the development of nutrient standards for inland and ocean waters.
- 3. San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board Nutrient Management Strategy**  
Regional Water Board staff will present an overview of the nutrient management strategy development and implementation for the San Francisco Bay.  
[San Francisco Bay Nutrient Management Strategy | Status/Progress Tracking: San Francisco Bay Nutrient Management Strategy \(sfei.org\)](#)
- 4. San Francisco Bay Nutrient Reduction Study**  
Presentation of the findings from the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies report on the SF Bay Nutrient Reduction Study. [BACWA Final Report 20180621.docx](#)
- 5. Los Angeles County Sanitation District Nutrient Removal Planning**  
Staff from the LA County Sanitation District will present an overview of their planning for nutrient removal as part of their water recycling project in partnership with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.
- 6. Group Discussion**  
Participants will be invited to discuss immediate actions that could be taken to incentivize wastewater agencies to evaluate the feasibility of reducing nutrients as part of their future planning for facility upgrades including recycled water projects.

## **INFORMATION AVAILABILITY**

This workshop will not include a presentation on the ocean acidification model development and findings. You can access the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project's presentation on the model to the State Water Board on the video of

the March 21, 2023 Board Meeting at the link below. The presentation begins at 1:11:10 in the YouTube video.

[Board Meeting March 21, 2023 - YouTube](#)

### **FUTURE NOTICES**

The State Water Board will hold the public workshop at the time and place (virtual) noted above. Any change in the date, time, or place of the workshop will be noticed through the relevant e-mail distribution lists. Any person interested in receiving future notices, including any changes to this notice of public workshop, must sign up for the e-mail distribution list by entering an e-mail address in the subscription form at [California Water Boards \(govdelivery.com\)](#) and selecting the box for 'Biostimulatory Substances and Biological Integrity' or 'California Ocean Plan (COP)', which are located in the section entitled 'Water Quality'.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please direct questions regarding this notice to Karen Mogus at [Karen.Mogus@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Karen.Mogus@waterboards.ca.gov)

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Date                      April 10, 2023

  
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Courtney Tyler  
Clerk to the Board