

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION - DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
NOVEMBER 1, 2011**

**ITEM 7**

**SUBJECT**

THE STATE BOARD WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CALIFORNIA OCEAN PLAN RELATED TO MODEL MONITORING, VESSEL WASTE DISCHARGES, AND NON-SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES, AND THE DRAFT SUBSTITUTE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.

**DISCUSSION**

Section 13170.2 of the California Water Code directs the State Water Board to formulate and adopt a water quality control plan for ocean waters of California. The Ocean Plan establishes water quality standards for California's ocean waters and provides the basis for regulation of wastes discharged into the State's near-coastal ocean waters. The Ocean Plan applies to point and nonpoint source discharges. The State Water Board first adopted the Ocean Plan in 1972.

On June 26, 2007, the State Water Board held a public scoping meeting to seek input on proposed amendments to the Ocean Plan, including those pertaining to model monitoring, vessel discharges, and nonsubstantive amendments. Staff proceeded with work on these amendments, but on September 15, 2009 only nonsubstantive amendments to the Ocean Plan were adopted by the Board. The 2009 Ocean Plan may be seen at:

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

Since 2009 staff continued to work on the Model Monitoring and Vessel amendments, and had identified some additional nonsubstantive amendments, and conducted a Triennial Review of the Ocean Plan. The State Water Board adopted the Ocean Plan Triennial Review Workplan for 2011-2013 by [Resolution 2011-0013](#) on March 15, 2011. The Workplan identifies numerous issues for which further action is needed. Issues 2 and 3, which were given very high priority, relate to the proposed Model Monitoring and Control of Commercial Vessel Discharges and Invasive Species amendments to the California Ocean Plan. Issue 25 relates to the proposed Non-substantive Administrative Changes proposed to the California Ocean Plan. The Ocean Plan Triennial Review Workplan 2011-2013 is available from the State Water Board's Web site at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ocean/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ocean/index.shtml).

A Draft Staff Report including Draft Substitute Environmental Documentation (SED) has been prepared for the following proposed amendments to the California Ocean Plan: (1) Model Monitoring, (2) Control of Commercial Vessel Discharges and Invasive Species, and (3) Non-substantive Administrative Changes. The Draft Staff Report/SED may be seen at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ocean/docs/oplans/amendments2011/dsed\\_oplan\\_mvessel.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ocean/docs/oplans/amendments2011/dsed_oplan_mvessel.pdf) and the draft amendments (Appendix A to the Staff Report) are at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ocean/docs/oplans/amendments2011/dsed\\_opmv\\_apxa.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ocean/docs/oplans/amendments2011/dsed_opmv_apxa.pdf). The written comment period ended on October 24, 2011.

## **POLICY ISSUE**

There will be no action on this item today. The Public Hearing is being held only to receive public testimony on proposed amendments to the California Ocean Plan related to model monitoring, vessel waste discharges, and non-substantive changes, and the Draft Substitute Environmental Documentation for the proposed amendments.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goals 4 and 6 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012, to comprehensively address water quality protection and restoration, and to enhance consistency across the Water Boards. In particular, these amendments to the Ocean Plan will assist in fulfilling Objective 4.2 [Basin Plans are consistently organized by 2012, and updated by 2015, to provide a clear structure that readily conveys key elements (e.g., beneficial uses, potential impacts of climate change, water quality objectives, goals for watersheds, plans for achieving those goals, and monitoring to inform and adjust the plans.) In addition, these amendments will assist in fulfilling Objective/Actions 1.2.5 to develop a storm water monitoring strategy.