

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD HEARING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
AUGUST 5, 2014**

ITEM 9

SUBJECT

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO STATEWIDE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLANS TO CONTROL TRASH IN SURFACE WATERS

DISCUSSION

The presence of trash in surface waters, especially coastal and marine waters, is a serious issue in California. Staff is proposing Amendments to Statewide Water Quality Control Plans to Control Trash ([Trash Amendments](#)) that accumulates in state waters, adversely affects beneficial uses, and causes nuisance. The proposed Trash Amendments would be adopted into the California Ocean Plan and the forthcoming Inland Surface Water, Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Plan. Implementation would occur through National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Phase I and Phase II, Department of Transportation, Industrial General Permit, and Construction General Permit) and by Waste Discharge Requirements and Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements. A central element of the proposed Trash Amendments is a land-use based compliance approach to target high trash generating areas. The proposed Trash Amendments will provide statewide consistency, with the exception of the existing trash and debris Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in the Los Angeles Region, to reducing the amount of trash transported and deposited in state waters.

There will be no action on this item today. The public hearing is held during the public comment period only to receive testimony on the proposed Trash Amendments.

POLICY ISSUE

The State Water Board is soliciting comments on the proposed Trash Amendments prior to adoption; no final action will be taken. Final action of the State Water Board will be scheduled for a subsequent date.

FISCAL IMPACT

As proposed, the Trash Amendments will require the State Water Board and Regional Water Boards to incorporate trash control provisions in their respective permits; we expect the Water Boards will absorb those impacts with existing resources.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

As proposed, the Trash Amendments are applicable to all surface waters in the state, with the exception of those waters with the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles Water Board that have trash and debris TMDLs in effect prior the Trash Amendments.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None. The Board will not be asked to make a decision at this public hearing.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goals 1 and 6 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to narrative of goal(s). In particular, approval of this item will assist in fulfilling Action 1.1.3 and Objective 6.2.