

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
NOVEMBER 7, 2023**

ITEM 3

SUBJECT

PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AND RENEWAL OF THE GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS AND WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES OF WASTE ASSOCIATED WITH CANNABIS CULTIVATION ACTIVITIES.

DISCUSSION

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will consider adoption of proposed amendments and renewal of the General Waste Discharge Requirements and Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Waste Associated with Cannabis Cultivation Activities (Cannabis General Order).

The Cannabis General Order ([WQ 2019-0001-DWQ](#)) was adopted February 5, 2019. Water Code section 13269(a)(2) establishes that a waiver may not exceed five years in duration without being renewed by the State or Regional Water Board. The conditional waiver contained within Cannabis General Order is set to expire on February 5, 2024.

On July 11, 2023, the Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment and Consideration of Adoption to renew the waiver portion of the Cannabis General Order, with no substantive amendments to the remainder of the Cannabis General Order, was released to the public through cannabis distribution email subscription lists, social media, and emailed to approximately fifteen hundred interested parties. The State Water Board will consider adoption of the amended Cannabis General Order, and renewal of the conditional waiver at the November 7, 2023, Board Meeting. A more in-depth review and update of the Cannabis Policy and General Order is planned in late 2025 or early 2026.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board renew the conditional waiver contained in the Cannabis General Order and adopt the proposed amendments?

FISCAL IMPACT

No additional fiscal impact to currently budgeted program resources.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

No changes to Regional Board staff allocations or operations anticipated.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the proposed amendments to the Cannabis General Order and renew the Conditional Waiver.