
State Water Resources Control Board

Video and Teleconference Meeting During COVID-19 Emergency

This meeting will occur via remote presence only as a result of the COVID-19 emergency and the Governor's Executive Orders to protect public health by limiting public gatherings and requiring social distancing.

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND BOARD CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CALIFORNIA WATER AND WASTEWATER ARREARAGE PAYMENT PROGRAM GUIDELINES TO ADD THE WASTEWATER ARREARAGES PROGRAM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will accept public written comments on the proposed amendments to the California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program Guidelines (Guidelines) to add the Wastewater Arrearages Program in Appendix A of the Guidelines. Public written comments must be submitted no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Wednesday, January 5, 2022. Public written comments must be submitted per the procedures in the "Submission of Comments" section of this public notice.

NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Board will have a Staff Workshop on the Draft amendments to the Guidelines on **Tuesday, January 4, 2022** at the State Water Board. The anticipated date, time, and location of the Staff workshop are provided below.

**Divisions of Water Quality and Financial Assistance
State Water Board Staff Workshop
Tuesday, January 4, 2022
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Remote Participation Only**

The Staff workshop is for informational purposes and no formal action will be taken. For questions regarding the draft amendments to the Guidelines, please email wwarrearages@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line "Draft Guidelines" For meeting participation information please email wwarrearages@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line "Staff Workshop". Meeting information will also be available at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/arrearage_payment_program/

NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Board will consider adopting the proposed amendments to the Guidelines on **Wednesday, January 19, 2022** at the State Water Board Meeting.

State Water Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 19, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Remote Participation Only

If you wish to watch the meeting: A webcast will be available at video.calepa.ca.gov/ and should be used UNLESS you intend to provide comments or ask questions orally during the workshop. Click on the video icon under the corresponding date and event. Please note that the link to the webcast will be available a few minutes before the Board Meeting begins.

ACCESSIBILITY

Telecommunications device for the hard of hearing (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at: (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

BACKGROUND

The Fiscal Year 2021-22 State Budget Act (Senate Bill 129) appropriated \$985 million from the Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, to the State Water Board for payments to community water systems to forgive residential and commercial customer arrearages that accrued during the COVID-19 pandemic relief bill period (March 4, 2020 through June 15, 2021) (the Water Arrearages Program).

A Budget trailer bill (Assembly Bill 148) added Chapter 4.7, commencing with section 116773 of part 12 of division 104 to the Health and Safety Code to establish requirements for the California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program. The State Water Board adopted the resolution establishing the Guidelines to establish the requirements for the California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program on September 21, 2021 and amended the Guidelines on December 7, 2021.

Since sufficient funds remain after implementation of the Water Arrearages Program, the Budget Act of 2021 appropriates the remaining funds for payments to wastewater treatment providers, or wastewater billing entities that are designated as the billing entity for a wastewater treatment provider, to forgive residential and commercial customer arrearages that accrued during the COVID-19 pandemic bill relief period of March 4, 2020 through June 15, 2021. The draft amendments to the Guidelines establish the criteria and processes the State Water Board will use to administer the Wastewater Arrearages Program.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The Draft amendments to the Guidelines to add the Wastewater Arrearages Program were made available for public comment on December 17, 2021. More information regarding submitting comments will be provided at that time. Information will be available at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/arrearage_payment_program/ You may also request a copy of the Draft FY 2021-22 Guidelines by contacting gurgagn.chand@waterboards.ca.gov or calling (916) 205-7456.

After reviewing public comments, an updated version of the Draft amendments to the Guidelines will be posted for public comment prior to the Board Meeting. This will occur as part of the regular State Water Board Meeting Agenda process, at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar.

SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

The State Water Board will accept both written and oral comments on the Draft amendments to the Guidelines. To submit written comments, please use the subject line: **“Comment Letter – Draft Wastewater amendments to the Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program Guidelines”**. Written comments must be received by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 and should be submitted to the attention of:

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Comment letters may be submitted to the Clerk to the Board via email (if less than 15 megabytes) at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. If the electronic comment letter is greater than 15 megabytes, it may be submitted by fax at (916) 341-5620. Couriers delivering hard copies of comment letters must check in with lobby security personnel, who can contact Ms. Townsend at (916) 341-5600.

At the Staff Workshop and Board Meeting, commenters will be given an opportunity to make oral comments or to summarize and supplement orally previously submitted written materials. If you would like to provide oral comments, please follow the remote participation guidelines available at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/remote_meeting/#provide_comments

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

At the State Water Board Meeting, the Board will consider adoption of the Draft amendments to the Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program Guidelines. Members of the public may present oral comments at the meeting. To ensure a productive and efficient Board Meeting, the Board may limit the time for oral comments. For recommendations regarding presentations to the Board, please go to: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/meetings/board_presentations.html

FUTURE NOTICES

Any change in the date, time, the public comment period, or to the intended date of State Water Board consideration of adoption of the Draft Guidelines will be provided via the State Water Board's email distribution list. Any person desiring to receive future notices concerning the Guidelines must subscribe to the State Water Board's email distribution list. The subscription form is located at:

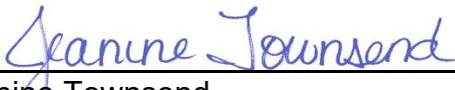
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.html

To subscribe, select the "General Interests" category, then check the box for "Board Meetings", and provide the required information.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct all questions regarding this notice and the Guidelines to wwarrearages@waterboards.ca.gov or call (916) 205-7456

December 17, 2021
Date


Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board