
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF (1) OPPORTUNITY TO ADD TO THE PUBLIC RECORD, (2) OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT, AND (3) PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SAN DIEGO REGION TO INCORPORATE A BIOLOGICAL OBJECTIVE

On September 6, 2024, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) provided public notice that it was postponing a September 18, 2024 public meeting to consider approval of an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin to incorporate a water quality objective for biological condition adopted by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board) on December 8, 2020 ("Basin Plan Amendment," see [Resolution No. R9-2020-0234](#)). The notice informed the public that the State Water Board would hold a public workshop to further consider issues and would subsequently identify the date and issues.

Prior to holding the public workshop, the State Water Board will:

1. Reopen the administrative record to accept new evidence, limited to the subject outlined below,
2. Provide a summary of the new evidence that it is accepting into the record, and
3. Open a public comment period on that evidence.

OPPORTUNITY TO ADD TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Board is reopening the administrative record to accept new evidence (e.g., California Stream Condition Index data) published since November 18, 2020 (the date the San Diego Water Board's hearing, at which oral comments on the full amendment were accepted) that is relevant to the use of the proposed biological objective in anthropogenically and physically modified soft-bottom streams in the San Diego Region. Data from outside the region will only be accepted and considered if it is demonstrated to be applicable to use of the CSCI within the San Diego region. New evidence must be accompanied by a statement of the relevance of the evidence to the implementation of the proposed biological objective.

In order to be considered, all new evidence must be received by 12:00 noon on Monday, February 24, 2025.

Provide evidence to Courtney Tyler, Clerk to the State Water Board. Please indicate in the subject line: **“Evidence for Record – R9 Biological Objective.”**

Information may be submitted electronically in pdf format (if less than 15 megabytes in total size) to the Board Clerk via e-mail at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. If the file is greater than 15 megabytes in size, then the information may be submitted by fax at (916) 341-5620. Alternatively, information may be submitted by hand delivery or mail to:

Courtney Tyler, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814-0100 (hand delivery)
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100 (mail)

Couriers delivering information must check in with lobby security personnel, who can contact Courtney Tyler at (916) 341-5611.

SUMMARY OF SUBMITTED EVIDENCE

The State Water Board will review evidence timely received and identify which evidence is accepted into the record. The State Water Board will post and distribute a summary of the accepted evidence to interested persons by April 1, 2025. The summary of accepted evidence will be posted on the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board's (San Diego Water Board's) [project website](#), with submitted evidence being made available upon request.

Persons who wish to stay informed must subscribe to the email subscription list by accessing the form at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml. To subscribe, select the “Water Quality” section header and click on “Freshwater Plans and Policies.”

Alternatively, a copy of the summary can also be received by mail by contacting the San Diego Water Board at sandiego@waterboards.ca.gov or 619-516-1990.

OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT COMMENTS ON NEW EVIDENCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Board is seeking written public comments on the new evidence accepted into the administrative record from April 1, 2025, until 12:00 noon on Monday, May 19, 2025. Comments that are not directly related to the new evidence will not be accepted. Comments received after that deadline will not be accepted unless the State Water Board determines otherwise.

Provide written comments to Courtney Tyler, Clerk to the State Water Board. Please indicate in the subject line: **“Comment Letter – R9 Biological Objective.”**

Written comments may be submitted electronically in pdf format (if less than 15 megabytes in total size) to the Board Clerk via e-mail at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. If the file is greater than 15 megabytes in size, then the written comments may be submitted by fax at (916) 341-5620. Alternatively, comments may be submitted by hand delivery or mail to:

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Couriers delivering written comments must check in with lobby security personnel, who can contact Courtney Tyler at (916) 341-5611.

The State Water Board previously provided the opportunity to submit written comments on the proposed approval of the Basin Plan Amendment, to which written responses were posted on July 15, 2024, at the San Diego Water Board's [website](#). The State Water Board will not reconsider comments already received or consider any new comment that it determines is not directly relevant to new evidence added to the administrative record.

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Board will hold a public workshop on May 6, 2025, on the following limited topics:

- New evidence (e.g., California Stream Condition Index data) accepted by the State Water Board that is relevant the use of the proposed biological objective in anthropogenically and physically modified soft-bottom streams in the San Diego Region. Data from outside the region will only be accepted and considered if it is demonstrated to be applicable to use of the CSCI within the San Diego region. New evidence must be accompanied by a statement of the relevance of the evidence to the implementation of the proposed biological objective.
- How the San Diego Water Board intends to implement the Basin Plan amendment for modified, soft-bottom streams.

Although a quorum of the Board is expected to be present at the workshop, the State Water Board will not take any formal action. The workshop is an opportunity for staff and interested persons to provide oral comments to the State Water Board Members. The Board Members may provide direction to staff, but no final action will be taken until a subsequent, noticed Board meeting.

The time and location of the workshop will be:
9:00am, May 6, 2025
Coastal Hearing Room
Joe Serna Jr. – CalEPA Headquarters Building
1001 I Street, Second Floor,
Sacramento, CA 95814
and via Video and Teleconference

The agenda for the May 6, 2025 State Water Board meeting and instructions for participating the meeting will be posted on or about April 25, 2025 at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar.

Video and Teleconference Option: This meeting will occur with both a physical meeting location and an option for the public to participate from a remote location.

- For those who only wish to watch the meeting, a webcast is available at <https://www.youtube.com/user/BoardWebSupport/> or <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/> (closed captioning available) and should be used UNLESS you intend to comment.
- For members of the public who wish to comment on an agenda item or are presenting to the Board, additional information about participating telephonically or via the remote meeting solution is available here: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/remote_meeting/

Language Services

The public workshop will be offered in English. To request language interpretation or sign language services, please use one of the following options before March 15, 2025:

1. Submit a [Language Services Request](#) online,
2. Call the Office of Public Participation by phone at (916) 341-5254, or
3. Email the Office of Public Participation at opp-languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov.

Parking

For directions to the Joe Serna, Jr. (CalEPA) Building and public parking information, please refer to the map on the State Water Board website: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/headquarters-sacramento/location/>.

All visitors to the CalEPA Building are required to sign in and obtain a badge at the Visitor Services Center located just inside the main entrance (10th Street entrance). Valid picture identification may be required. Please allow up to 15 minutes for receiving security clearance.

Accessibility

The CalEPA Building is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to call (916) 341-5254 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

BACKGROUND

The San Diego Water Board adopted the Basin Plan Amendment and approved a Substitute Environmental Document on December 8, 2020, by [Resolution No. R9-2020-0234](#). The Basin Plan Amendment adds a biological objective for streams, with specific exceptions, using the California Stream Condition Index. The Basin Plan Amendment also includes a program of implementation to integrate the biological objective into the San Diego Water Board's regulatory programs and to guide development of future biological objectives.

HOW TO RECEIVE FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS

Any future communications from the State Water Board, including any changes to the information noticed above will be provided via the State Water Board's email distribution list. Any person desiring to receive future notices must subscribe to the list serve e-mail distribution list by accessing the following e-mail list subscription form:

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

To subscribe, select "Water Quality" section header and click on "Freshwater Plans and Policies."

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

More information about the Basin Plan Amendment, including supporting documents, is available at the San Diego Water Board's website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/bio_objec tives/

Please direct requests for a paper copy of the Basin Plan Amendment or other documents to the San Diego Water Board at rb9_records@waterboards.ca.gov.

January 22, 2025
Date



Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board