
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF STAFF WORKSHOP, OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENTS AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, AND CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION FOR THE ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS POLICY AMENDMENT AND CONDITIONAL WAIVER RENEWAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff will hold a workshop to present information and answer questions about the proposed Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy (OWTS Policy) amendments, conditional waiver renewal, and the California Environmental Quality Act addendum. The anticipated staff workshop date, time, and location are provided below:

STAFF WORKSHOP

Tuesday, October 4, 2022 - 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Video and Teleconference Only, No Physical Meeting Location

[Zoom Registration Link](#)

A quorum of the State Water Board may attend the staff workshop; however, no State Water Board action will be taken on the proposed OWTS Policy amendments, conditional waiver renewal, or the California Environmental Quality Act addendum. The “PROCEDURAL MATTERS” section outlines the staff workshop participation procedures.

NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Board will hold a public hearing to receive oral comments, during which any interested person may present comments relevant to the proposed OWTS Policy amendments, conditional waiver renewal, and the California Environmental Quality Act addendum. The “PROCEDURAL MATTERS” section outlines the hearing participation procedures.

Written comments must be submitted no later than **12:00 p.m. (noon) on Tuesday, November 1, 2022**. The “SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS” section outlines procedures for how the State Water Board will accept written comments. The anticipated date, time, and location of the Public Hearing are provided below:

PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, October 18, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.

Coastal Hearing Room – Second Floor

Joe Serna Jr. – CalEPA Building

1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

And via Video and Teleconference

A quorum of the State Water Board may attend the public hearing; however, no State Water Board action will be taken on the proposed OWTS Policy amendments, conditional waiver renewal, or the California Environmental Quality Act addendum.

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, the webcast remains available at either <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/*
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NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Board will hold a Board Meeting to consider adoption of the OWTS Policy amendments, conditional waiver renewal, and the California Environmental Quality Act addendum. The anticipated date, time, and location of this Board Meeting are provided below:

BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, April 18, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.
Coastal Hearing Room – Second Floor
Joe Serna Jr. – CalEPA Headquarters
1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
And via Video and Teleconference

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, the webcast remains available at either <https://www.youtube.com/user/BoardWebSupport/> or <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/> (closed captioning available) and should be used UNLESS you intend to comment.*
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PROCEDURAL MATTERS

You can access State Water Board Meeting agenda information, in-person or remote participation procedures, and any meeting changes at the [State Water Board Information and Calendar webpage](#).

Tuesday, October 4, 2022 Staff Workshop: The staff workshop is currently scheduled to be held remotely only. Please register to attend the staff workshop via the Zoom registration link, provided above in the “NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN” section. Instructions for participation in the staff workshop will be distributed electronically to registered participants and any subsequent workshop materials or recordings will be posted on the program webpage. Please email DWQ-WDR@Waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line “staff workshop” for any meeting or participation questions.

The staff workshop will include information on the 1) project overview, timeline, and upcoming public participation opportunities, 2) proposed amendments to the OWTS Policy and California Environmental Quality Act addendum, and 3) conditional waiver renewal. Participants will be allowed to ask questions, receive staff responses, and discuss topics related to the proposed OWTS Policy amendments, conditional waiver renewal, and the California Environmental Quality Act addendum. Information provided during the staff workshop are not considered official public comments or evidence entered into the record. To submit public comments, please see the “SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS” section.

Tuesday, October 18, 2022 Public Hearing: A quorum of the State Water Board may be present; however, no Board action will be taken on the proposed OWTS Policy amendments, conditional waiver renewal, or the California Environmental Quality Act addendum. Members of the public may present oral comments at the Board Meeting. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of interested persons, but the Board and its staff may ask clarifying questions.

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 Board Meeting: The State Water Board will consider adoption of the OWTS Policy amendments, conditional waiver renewal, and the California Environmental Quality Act addendum. Interested persons will have an opportunity to comment orally at the Board Meeting. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants. However, the Board and its staff may ask clarifying questions. Although public comment will be allowed at the Board Meeting, the Board will not accept any additional evidence into the record. The Board may limit time for oral presentations to ensure a productive and efficient Board Meeting.

To present or provide oral comment at the October 18, 2022 or April 18, 2023 Board Meeting, please follow the [remote participation guidelines](#). In-person or remote PowerPoint presentations must be sent to and received by commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov by **12:00 p.m. (noon), 5 business days before** the Board Meeting. (October 11, 2022 for the Public Hearing to hear comments and April 11, 2023 for the Board Meeting to consider adoption, respectively). For in-person participation, please reference the [State Water Board Information and Calendar](#)

[webpage](#) and information in the “DIRECTIONS AND ACCESSIBILITY” section below.

DIRECTIONS AND ACCESSIBILITY

The CalEPA Building is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to call (916) 341-5572 at least 10 business days before the meeting. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

The meetings in this notice will be offered in English. To request other language interpretation or other accommodation, please submit your request at least 10 business days before the meeting date (September 20, 2022 for the staff workshop, October 4, 2022 for the Public Hearing, and April 4, 2023 for the Board Meeting) by contacting program staff at DWQ-WDR@Waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line “OWTS Policy Language Services”.

In-person participants are expected to adhere to current COVID-19 protocols to protect public health. [Directions to the Joe Serna, Jr. \(CalEPA\) Building and public parking information webpage](#). 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 20 minutes for receiving security clearance.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The State Water Board will accept written comments on the proposed amendments to the OWTS Policy and associated California Environmental Quality Act documentation. When submitting written comments, please use the subject line: “**Comments – OWTS Policy Renewal**”. Written comments must be received by **12:00 p.m. (noon) on November 1, 2022**. Comment letters submitted by mail must be addressed:

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

Comment letters may be submitted electronically, in PDF text format, if less than 15 megabytes in total size, to the Clerk to the Board email: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. If the file is greater than 15 megabytes in total size, then the comment letter may be submitted by mail to the address above or fax to (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.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The proposed OWTS Policy amendments, conditional waiver renewal, and the California Environmental Quality Act addendum will be available on the [Onsite](#)

[Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy public program webpage](#) on or before **Friday, September 16, 2022**. You may request a paper copy of these documents by emailing DWQ-WDR@Waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line "OWTS Policy Renewal" or by contacting Stephanie Torres at (916) 341-5572.

EX PARTE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

This item is subject to the ex parte communication disclosure requirements of Water Code section 13287, as explained in a [Memo from the Office of the Chief Counsel](#). Any communications between interested persons and State Water Board Members (other than at a noticed Board Meeting or submitted as a comment letter in compliance with the public notice) must be disclosed by the interested person within seven working days of the communication. A sample disclosure form is available on the [State Water Board General Order Disclosure Form](#). Beginning **April 4, 2023**, ex parte communications between interested persons and Board Members concerning this item are prohibited.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the OWTS Policy and conditional waiver is to allow local agency oversight of over 1.2 million onsite wastewater treatment systems statewide through a conditional waiver of waste discharge requirements while maintaining minimum statewide water quality protections. The Policy addresses discharges less than 10,000 gallons per day of domestic wastewater to land, which may include incidental high-strength wastewater from commercial kitchens. Discharges not covered by this Policy include, but are not limited to, significant recreational vehicle domestic wastewater or industrial wastewater. The tiered regulatory approach of the Policy is implemented through a formalized relationship between the regional water quality control boards and local agencies.

The Policy was adopted June 19, 2012, and became effective on May 13, 2013, six months after obtaining Office of Administrative Law approval. Pursuant to Water Code § 13269, the OWTS Policy includes a conditional waiver of waste discharge requirements, the submittal of a report of waste discharge, and/or fee payment by the owner of an onsite wastewater treatment system covered by the Policy. Per Water Code section 13269, the conditional waiver must be renewed by the State Water Board every 5 years and was last renewed April 2018. The current OWTS Policy amendments and conditional waiver renewal scope proposes to address procedural clarifications in the language of the Policy itself, as well as any needed updates to the Attachment 2 listing of water bodies impaired for pathogen and nitrates resulting from OWTS.

FUTURE NOTICES

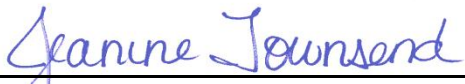
Any changes to information in this notice will be provided via the automated State Water Board lyris email list. To receive future notices regarding this issue, subscribe to the lyris email list by accessing the [Email List Subscription Form](#), select the "General Interests" category, then check the box for "Board Meetings," and provide the required information. Additionally, to receive future notices concerning the OWTS Policy,

including the OWTS Policy Renewal, use the above link, select the “Water Quality” category, then check the box for “Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) – Septic Systems” and provide the required information.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct questions about the OWTS Policy or this notice to DWQ-WDR@Waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line “OWTS Policy Renewal” or to Stephanie Torres at (916) 341-5572.

August 17, 2022
Date


Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board