

Agenda Notice for November 18, 2009

NOTES:

A. GENERAL STATEMENT

The primary duty of the Regional Board is to protect the quality of the waters within the region for all beneficial uses. This duty is implemented by formulation and adoption of water quality plans for specific ground or surface water basins and by prescribing and enforcing requirements on all domestic and industrial waste discharges. Responsibilities and procedures of the Regional Water Quality Control Board come from the State's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act and the Nation's Clean Water Act.

The purpose of the meeting is for the Board to obtain testimony and information from concerned and affected parties and make decisions after considering the recommendations made by the Executive Officer.

All interested persons may speak at the Regional Board meeting and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals. Testimony should be presented in writing prior to the meeting and only a summary of pertinent points presented orally. Oral testimony (i.e., direct testimony or comment) will be limited in time by the Board Chair (typically 3 minutes for interested persons and no more than 10 minutes for designated parties). A timer may be used and speakers are expected to honor the time limits.

B. PROCEDURE FOR CONSENT (UNCONTESTED) CALENDAR (see also 23 C.C.R. § 647.2)

Consent or uncontested agenda items are items for which there appears to be no controversy and which can be acted upon by the Regional Board with no discussion. Such items have been properly noticed and all interested parties consent to the staff recommendation. The Regional Board Chair will recognize late revisions submitted by staff and will then call for a motion and vote on all of the consent calendar items by the Regional Board.

If any Regional Board member or member of the public raises a question or issue regarding an item that requires Regional Board discussion, the item may be removed from the consent calendar and considered separately in an order determined by the Chair. Anyone wishing to contest a consent item on the agenda is expected to appear in person at the Regional Board meeting and explain to the Regional Board the reason that it is contested.

C. PROCEDURE FOR INFORMATION ITEMS (see also 23 C.C.R. 649, et. seq.)

Information items are items presented to the Regional Board for discussion only and for which no Regional Board action or vote is normally taken. The Regional Board usually will hear a presentation by staff, but may hear presentations by others. Comments by interested persons shall also be allowed. Members of the public wishing to address the Regional Board on the topic under discussion should submit an attendance card beforehand indicating their request to speak to the Regional Board. Comment from the public should be for clarification or to add to the Regional Board's understanding of the item; such comment must not be testimonial in nature or argumentative, as speakers are not under oath and the proceeding is not adversarial. Time limits may be imposed on interested persons.

D. PROCEDURES FOR NON-CONSENT (CONTESTED) AGENDA ITEMS

Non-consent or contested agenda items are items to which the parties involved have not consented and the staff recommendation is in dispute. The procedure that applies to such items depends on the nature of the matter. Matters before the Regional Board may be quasi-legislative or quasi-judicial (adjudicative proceedings). Such items may require a public hearing and all interested persons will be provided an opportunity to make comments.

**Contested Adjudicative Matters**

Contested agenda items that are adjudicative, not quasi-legislative, are governed by the rules for adjudicative proceedings. State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) regulations setting forth the procedures for adjudicative proceedings before the State and Regional Water Boards are codified in Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Division 3. Adjudicative proceedings before the State and Regional Water Boards are governed by State Water Board regulations as authorized by Chapter 4.5 of the Administrative Procedures Act (commencing with section 11400 of the Government Code). State Water Board regulations further provide that, with certain exceptions, adjudicative proceedings will be conducted in accordance with sections 800-805 of the Evidence Code and section 11513 of Chapter 5 of the Government Code. (Other provisions of Chapter 5 of the Government Code do not apply to adjudicative proceedings before the State and Regional Water Boards). A copy of those regulations and Chapter 4.5 of the Administrative Procedures Act, section 11513 of the Government Code and sections 801-805 of the Evidence Code can be found at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws\\_regulations/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/).

An adjudicative proceeding is a hearing to receive evidence for determination of facts pursuant to which the State or Regional Water Board formulates and issues a decision. A decision determines a legal right, duty, privilege, immunity or other legal interest of a particular person or persons. Examples of adjudicative proceedings include hearings to receive evidence concerning the issuance of waste discharge requirements or National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, concerning cease and desist orders, and concerning orders imposing administrative civil liability. Adjudicative proceedings are not conducted according to the technical rules of evidence, and the Regional Board will accept testimony and comments that are reasonably relevant to the issues before the Board. Testimony or comments that are not reasonably relevant, or that are repetitious, will be excluded.

In some adjudicative matters, a separate Hearing Procedures Document has been issued. In those cases, the procedures set forth in that Document will apply, subject to discretionary modification by the Chairman. For other adjudicatory matters, the Chair may establish specific procedures for each item, and consistent with section 648, subdivision (d) of title 23 of the California Code of Regulations may waive nonstatutory provisions of the regulations. Generally, all witnesses testifying before the Regional Board must affirm the truth of their testimony and are subject to questioning by the Board Members.

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Absent a separate Hearing Procedures Document, the Board normally conducts adjudicative proceedings in an informal manner. That is, the Board does not, generally, require the designation of parties, the prior identification of witnesses, prior submission

of written testimony, or the cross examination of witnesses. Any requests for an alternate hearing process should be directed to the Executive Officer and must be received by the Regional Board by the deadline set forth on pages 1-2 of the Agenda.

When the Regional Board determines that a hearing will be formal (as opposed to informal, as described above), participants in a contested agenda item are either "designated parties" or "interested persons." Only designated parties will have the right to cross-examination, and may be subject to cross-examination. Interested persons (i.e., nondesignated parties) do not have a right to cross-examination, but may ask the Regional Board to clarify testimony. Interested persons may also be asked to clarify their statements at the discretion of the Regional Board.

Designated parties include:

- Staff of the Regional Board
- Discharger or Responsible Party
- Persons directly affected by the discharge

All other persons wishing to testify or provide comments for a formal hearing are "interested persons" and not "designated parties." Such interested persons may request status as a designated party for purposes of the formal hearing by submitting such request in writing to the Regional Board no later than the date specified at the beginning of the Agenda Notice or in the applicable Notice of Public Hearing or Hearing Procedures Document. The request must explain the basis for status as a designated party and, in particular, how the person is directly affected by the discharge.

All persons testifying must state their name, address, affiliation, and whether they have taken the oath before testifying. The order of testimony for formal hearings generally will be as follows, unless modified by the Regional Board Chair:

- Testimony and cross-examination of Regional Board staff
- Testimony and cross-examination of discharger
- Testimony and cross-examination of other designated parties
- Testimony by interested persons
- Closing statement by designated parties other than discharger
- Closing statement by discharger
- Closing statement by staff
- Recommendation by Executive Officer (as appropriate)
- Close hearing
- Deliberation and voting by Regional Board

Closing statements shall be for the purpose of summarization and rebuttal and are not to be used to introduce new evidence or testimony. After considering evidence, testimony, and comments, the Regional Board may choose to adopt an order regarding a proposed agenda item.

### **Quasi-legislative Matters**

Quasi-legislative matters include rulemaking and some informational proceedings. These matters may include hearings for the adoption or amendment of regulations, water quality control plans, and hearings to gather information to assist the State and Regional Water Boards in formulating policy for future action. They are not adjudicative proceedings and are subject to different procedures. (See PROCEDURE FOR INFORMATION ITEMS, above, and Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 23, § 649, et seq.)

#### **E. CONTRIBUTIONS TO REGIONAL BOARD MEMBERS**

Persons applying for or actively supporting or opposing waste discharge requirements or other Regional Board orders must comply with legal requirements if they or their agents have contributed or proposed to contribute \$250 or more to the campaign of a Regional Board member for elected office. Contact the Regional Board for details if you fall into this category.

#### **F. PROCEDURAL INFORMATION**

The Regional Board may meet in closed session to discuss matters in litigation, including discussion of initiated litigation, significant exposure to litigation, or decisions to initiate litigation [Authority: Government Code § 11126(e)]; deliberate on a decision to be reached based upon evidence introduced in an adjudicatory hearing [Authority: Government Code § 11126(d)]; or to consider the appointment, employment or dismissal of a public employee to hear complaints or charges brought against a public employee [Authority: Government Code §11126(a)].

The Regional Board may break for lunch at approximately noon at the discretion of the Chairman. During the lunch break Regional Board members may have lunch together. Other than properly noticed closed session items, Regional Board business will not be discussed.

Agenda items are subject to postponement. A listing of postponed items will be posted in the meeting room. You may contact the designated staff contact person in advance of the meeting day for information on the status of any agenda item.

Speaker Cards. All persons desiring to address the Regional Board are required to fill out a speaker card. Cards are normally provided near the entrance to the meeting room. Regional Board staff can assist you in locating the cards.

Please fill out a separate card for each item you plan to speak on. All relevant sections, including the oath, must be completed. Please use the appropriate color card, as indicated below:

Blue: Public Comments (for items requiring no Regional Board action - Public Forum, status reports, etc.).

Green: Public Testimony, in support of the tentative action.

Pink: Public Testimony, opposed to the tentative action.

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### G. AVAILABILITY OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT AND AGENDA MATERIAL

Visit our website at [www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego) to view the Executive Officer's Report over the internet two days prior to the Regional Board meeting. A copy can also be obtained by contacting the staff office. A limited number of copies are available at the meeting.

Copies of most agenda items to be considered by the Regional Board are posted on the Regional Board's website at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board\\_info/agendas](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_info/agendas).

Details concerning other agenda items are available for public reference during normal working hours at the Regional Board's office. The appropriate staff contact person, indicated with the specific agenda item, can answer questions and provide additional information. For additional information about the Board, please see the attached sheet.

### H. PETITION OF REGIONAL BOARD ACTION

In accordance with California Water Code section 13320, any person affected adversely by most decisions of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (Regional Board) may petition the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to review the decision. The petition must be received by the State Board within 30 days of the Regional Board's meeting at which the adverse action was taken. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions will be provided upon request.

### I. HEARING RECORD

Material presented to the Board as part of testimony (e.g. photographs, slides, charts, diagrams etc.) that is to be made part of the record must be left with the Board. Photographs or slides of large exhibits are acceptable.

All Board files, exhibits, and agenda material pertaining to items on this agenda are hereby made a part of the record.

### J. ACCESSIBILITY

The facility is accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who have special accommodation or language needs, please contact Ms. Lori Costa at (858) 467-2357 or [lcosta@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:lcosta@waterboards.ca.gov) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may dial 7-1-1 for the California Relay Service.

### K. PRESENTATION EQUIPMENT

Providing and operating projectors and other presentation aids are the responsibilities of the speakers. Some equipment may be available at the Board Meeting; however, the type of equipment available will vary dependent on the meeting location. Because of compatibility issues, provision and operation of laptop computers and projectors for Power Point presentations will generally be the responsibility of the individual speakers. To ascertain the availability of presentation equipment please contact Ms. Lori Costa at (858) 467-2357 or [lcosta@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:lcosta@waterboards.ca.gov) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.