

---

## San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

March 8, 2022

### **NOTICE OF FILING, NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

### **ON AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN, SAN FRANCISCO BAY BASIN, AND DRAFT SUBSTITUTE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) has filed and is circulating a draft substitute environmental document (SED) on a proposed update to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan). The proposed update amends the Basin Plan to include information on climate change and how it might affect the region's waters. It describes efforts made to support the long-term resilience of aquatic habitats in the region. It includes a suite of questions and information that may be relevant when the Water Board permits dredge or fill activities in or near the region's shorelines, especially climate adaptation projects. It updates references, corrects errors, and makes minor, non-substantive edits for clarity. The Basin Plan amendment is informational and contains no new regulations. The Water Board is proposing to update the Basin Plan in accordance with a regulatory program certified under Section 21080.5 of the Public Resources Code as exempt from the requirement to prepare an environmental impact report under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and with other applicable laws and regulations.

**NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN** that the Water Board will receive comments on the proposed Basin Plan amendment and draft SED in accordance with this notice.

**NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN** that the Water Board will hold two public hearings on the proposed Basin Plan amendment:

DATES: April 13 and June 9, 2022

TIME: 9:00 a.m. (approximate)

LOCATION\*: Elihu M. Harris Building Auditorium  
1515 Clay Street  
Oakland, CA 94612

CONTACT: Christina Toms  
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400  
Oakland, CA 94612  
[Christina.Toms@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Christina.Toms@waterboards.ca.gov)

MATERIALS: The proposed Basin Plan amendment and draft SED (comprising a staff report and its appendices) will be available for review online on March 8, 2022 at [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public\\_notices/#basin](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public_notices/#basin)

## BACKGROUND

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and the federal Clean Water Act require the Water Board to regularly review and update the Basin Plan. The Basin Plan currently lacks any description of climate change and its relevance to the water board's regulatory programs. The proposed Basin Plan amendment fulfills that gap. The Water Board had previously identified a climate change Basin Plan amendment as high priority in its triennial reviews.

## SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

Written comments on the proposed Basin Plan amendment and draft SED must be received **no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 22, 2022**, to be considered. Please send all written comments to the staff contact identified above. Additionally, all evidence, testimony, and exhibits to be offered at the hearing must be submitted in writing by this date to the above staff contact. Non-evidentiary policy statements to be made at the June hearing need not be submitted in advance. Submission of written comments via email is preferred, but not required.

## PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The Water Board will receive oral public testimony on the proposed Basin Plan amendment and draft SED at the April hearing. Prior to the June hearing, Water Board staff will release any proposed changes to the proposed Basin Plan amendment and/or SED, along with written responses to comments. Oral public testimony at the June hearing will be limited to comments on changes to the proposed Basin Plan amendment and SED. At the June hearing, the Water Board will consider adoption of the proposed Basin Plan amendment and draft SED, including any changes to the proposed Basin Plan amendment that are consistent with the general purpose of the proposed amendment and are a logical outgrowth of the comments received.

The public hearings will be conducted in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 649.3. To ensure a productive, efficient and fair hearing in which all participants

---

\* The location and format of the meeting are subject to change due to the COVID-19 emergency. Interested persons will be notified of any changes. If you are not on the interested persons list, please contact the staff contact below to be included in any updates. Additional information about participating in the public hearing will also be available on the following Board webpage by April 3:  
[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board\\_info/agenda.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_info/agenda.html)

have an opportunity to be heard, oral comments will generally be limited to five minutes; groups are encouraged to designate a spokesperson.

If you require special accommodations at the physical meeting location, please contact Victor Aelion, (510) 622-2093, [Victor.Aelion@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Victor.Aelion@waterboards.ca.gov), at least five (5) working days before a meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

## **FUTURE NOTICES**

Any changes in the date of the hearing, the availability of responses to comments or any other updates will be noticed by the Lyris e-mail list. Any person desiring to receive future notices concerning the proposed Basin Plan amendment and substitute environmental document must sign up for the Lyris e-mail list. To sign up, access the E-mail List Subscription form at the Lyris subscription page:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/reg2\\_subscribe.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg2_subscribe.html), and select the box for “ALL Basin Planning/TMDL Notices and Information” option.