

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

Notice Date: January 20, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY BASIN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) will consider an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan) during a public hearing on **April 8, 2026**. Specifically, the Water Board will consider **adding the definitions of three new beneficial uses to the Basin Plan: Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL), Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB), and Subsistence Fishing (SUB)**.

The proposed amendment does not constitute an activity which has a potential to result in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment (Pub. Res. Code, § 21065). The proposed amendment is not a “project” for purposes of CEQA, is not subject to CEQA, and therefore, is not subject to the Water Board’s certified regulatory programs regulations implementing CEQA (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, 3720 (b), (c)(2)).

The public hearing to receive public comments and consider adoption of the proposed amendment and draft staff report will be held in-person with a remote participation option as follows:

DATE: **April 8, 2026**

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

LOCATION:

In-Person: Elihu M. Harris Building
First Floor Auditorium 1515 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Remotely: Please check
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_info/remote_meeting/index.html to find out how to participate remotely.

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NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN that the public has an opportunity to comment, in accordance with this notice, on the proposed Basin Plan amendment and the draft staff report.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The proposed Basin Plan amendment and supporting draft staff report are available online at the Water Board's "PUBLIC NOTICES AND DOCUMENTS FOR REVIEW" page (under Basin Planning and TMDLs): https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public_notices/#basin, and at the project webpage: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/planningtmdls/amendments/TBUpa.html.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS: The 45-day comment period for the proposed amendment begins on January 20, 2026. Written comments must be received **no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 6, 2026**. 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 hearing need not be submitted in advance.

One week before the Board hearing date, any proposed changes to the proposed Basin Plan amendment and draft staff report, along with written responses to all comments received during the public comment period, will be posted at the Board Meeting agenda page: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_info/agenda.html.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS: The Water Board will receive oral public testimony on the proposed Basin Plan amendment and draft staff report at the hearing. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board will consider adoption of the proposed Basin Plan amendment and draft staff report, including 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 hearing will be conducted in accordance with the California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 649.3. To ensure a productive, efficient and fair hearing in which all participants have an opportunity to be heard, oral comments will generally be limited to three minutes. Participants with similar comments are strongly encouraged to make joint presentations.

Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact Executive Assistant Julie Haas, (510) 622-2399, Julie.Haas@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 GovDelivery e-mail list. Any person desiring to receive future notices concerning the proposed Basin Plan amendment should sign up for the GovDelivery e-mail list at [California Water Boards Email Subscription Signup](#), and select the box "Tribal and Subsistence Beneficial Uses" under "Future Basin Planning/TMDL Projects."