



Linda S. Adams
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State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Water Quality

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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND SUBSEQUENT BOARD MEETING

TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR ENCLOSED BAYS AND ESTUARIES OF CALIFORNIA, PART 1, SEDIMENT QUALITY OBJECTIVES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will hold both a Public Hearing to seek comments on, and a Board Meeting to consider adoption of, proposed amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan (Plan) for Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California, Part 1, Sediment Quality Objectives.

The Public Hearing will be conducted on:

Monday, April 4, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.*
Joe Serna Jr./Cal-EPA Headquarters Building
Sierra Hearing Room*
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

The State Water Board will consider adopting the proposed amendments on:

Wednesday, April 6, 2011 – 9:00 a.m.*
Joe Serna Jr./Cal-EPA Headquarters Building
Coastal Hearing Room*
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

*Please note the differences in hearing rooms and start times.

BACKGROUND

In 2003, the State Water Board initiated a program to develop sediment quality objectives (SQOs) for toxic pollutants in enclosed bays and estuaries. On September 16, 2008, the State Water Board conducted a public hearing and adopted the Plan. The Plan became effective on August 25, 2009. The SQO protecting benthic communities relies on multiple lines of evidence, which integrate chemistry, toxicity, and the condition of the benthic community to assess sediment quality for aquatic life protection. The SQO protecting human consumers of fish and shellfish relies on human health risk assessment protocols to assess sediment quality relative to bioaccumulation of contaminants from sediment into seafood.

As part of its ongoing efforts to develop better sediment quality assessment tools to support the SQOs, State Water Board staff conducted a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting on May 19, 2010 to inform the Public on recent development efforts and plans for developing draft amendments to the plan. Based upon comments received, staff redirected

their efforts to focus on protecting resident finfish and wildlife. These receptors and administrative changes are described in the environmental document and staff report supporting the proposed amendments that are the subject of the Public Hearing on April 4, 2011 and the subsequent Board Meeting on April 6, 2011.

The proposed amendments include narrative SQOs protecting wildlife and resident finfish and a framework for implementing the narrative SQOs for wildlife and resident finfish. The proposed amendments also include non-substantive and other minor changes to the existing Plan.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

The proposed amendments to the Plan and the accompanying draft Staff Report may be obtained via the State Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/bptcp/sediment.shtml

You may also receive a copy by contacting Chris Beegan at cbeegan@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 341-5577.

SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

Interested persons and parties are encouraged to submit their comments in writing. In order to be fully considered, written comments concerning the draft order must be received by **12:00 noon on Tuesday, March 15, 2011**, in order to be considered by the State Water Board prior to the public hearing and subsequent meeting. **Please indicate in the subject line: "Comment Letter – Sediment Quality Objectives Amendment."** When mailing comments, address them to:

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

Comment letters may be submitted by email to commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov (if less than 15 megabytes in total size) or by fax at (916) 341-5620. Comments may also be hand delivered. Couriers delivering comment letters must check in with lobby security personnel on the first floor of the Cal-EPA Building at the above address. Questions on comment submittal may be directed to Ms. Townsend, at (916) 341-5600.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

At both the Public Hearing and subsequent Board Meeting, there will not be sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants. However, the State Water Board and its staff may ask clarifying questions. At both the Public Hearing and Board Meeting, participants will be given an opportunity to summarize and supplement their written materials with oral presentations. To ensure a productive and efficient Public Hearing in which all participants have an opportunity to participate, oral presentations may be time-limited. For other presentation recommendations, go to: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/meetings/board_presentations.shtml.

Questions concerning the Public Hearing may also be directed to Chris Beegan at (916) 341-5577.

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY


There is a parking garage across from the building with entrances on 10th and 11th Streets between "I" and "J" Streets, and metered parking spaces are in the vicinity of the building.

For a map, see our Web site: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPAbldg/location.htm>.

Please note: All visitors to the Joe Serna Jr./Cal-EPA Headquarters Building are required to sign in and receive a badge at the Visitor Services Center located inside the main entrance. Valid picture identification may be required due to the security level. Please allow up to 15 minutes for receiving clearance before proceeding to the Sierra or Coastal Hearing Room on the 2nd floor.

The Joe Serna Jr./Cal-EPA Headquarters Building is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact Catherine Foreman at (916) 341-5881, at least five working days prior to the public meeting date. Persons with hearing or speech impairments can contact us by using the California Relay Service Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD). TDD is reachable only from phones equipped with a TDD Device. HEARING IMPAIRED RELAY SERVICE: TDD to voice 1 800-735-2929; voice to TDD 1 800-735-2922

January 28, 2011
Date



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board