Notice is hereby given that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), as Lead Agency, has conducted an Initial Study (IS) and has determined that a program-level environmental impact report (EIR) is necessary for the proposed Wetland Area Protection Policy and Dredge and Fill Regulations (Project). The Project will include a State Water Board wetland definition.

Under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.), staff is soliciting comments from agencies and members of the public on this Notice of Preparation and IS.

Comment letters to the State Water Board, which should be limited to the CEQA environmental concerns, must be received by 12:00 noon on Tuesday, February 15, 2011. After the deadline, State Water Board staff will not accept additional written comments.

Please send comments to Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board, by email, if 15 megabytes in size or less, at: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov, or by fax at (916) 341-5620, or by mail or hand deliver addressed to:

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000 (by mail)
1001 I Street, 24th Floor, Sacramento, California 95814 (by hand delivery)

Please indicate in the subject line, “Comment Letter –CEQA - Wetland Area Protection Policy & Regulations.” Electronic submission by email is preferred.
Obtaining Copies of Initial Study

The potential environmental effects of the proposed Project are described in the IS, which is available in PDF format from the State Water Board’s website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/wrapp.shtml.

Copies of the IS can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the State Water Board’s office at 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

State Water Resources Control Board
Attn: Catherine Woody
Certification and Wetlands Program
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000 (by mail)
1001 I Street, 15th Floor, Sacramento, California 95814 (by hand delivery)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT SCOPING MEETINGS

In addition to providing comments by mail and e-mail, agencies and the public will have the opportunity to provide input at two public workshops/CEQA scoping meetings. Although a quorum of the State Water Board may be present, the State Water Board will not take an action during the meeting. The meeting locations and times are as follows:

Monday, January 31, 2011
Joe Serna Jr./California Environmental Protection Agency Building
Klamath Training Room
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (workshop / CEQA scoping meeting)

Tuesday, February 8, 2011
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
Regional Board Meeting Room
9174 Sky Park Court
San Diego, CA 92123-4340
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (workshop / CEQA scoping meeting)

At the public workshops, the project description will be reviewed. During the CEQA scoping portion of the meeting, input from agencies and the public will be solicited on specific topics that they feel should be discussed in the environmental analysis.

Parking and accessibility at the Sacramento location

A parking garage is located across from the Joe Serna Jr./Cal-EPA building with entrances on 10th and 11th Streets between “I” and “J” Streets. Metered parking spaces are also available in the vicinity of the building. For a map, refer to the State Water Board Web site: http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPAbldg/location.htm.
Please note: All visitors to the Cal/EPA Building are required to sign in and receive a badge at the Visitor Services Center located inside the main entrance (10th Street 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 Klamath Hearing Room on the 2nd floor.

The Cal/EPA Building is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Catherine Woody at (916) 341-5785 at least five working days prior to the meeting. 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.

Parking and accessibility at the San Diego location

Parking is available in front of the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board) building. For a map please refer to the San Diego Water Board website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/about_us/

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to Catherine Woody at the following email address: CWoody@waterboards.ca.gov.

This facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Catherine Woody at (916) 341-5785 at least five working days prior to the meeting. TTY users should contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2929.

January 5, 2011
Date

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board