NOTICE OF BOARD WORKSHOP

Workshop to Receive Comments Regarding
Draft Water Quality Enforcement Policy

June 4, 2009
1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Joe Serna, Jr. / Cal-EPA Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, California

SUBJECT OF WORKSHOP

The Office of Enforcement will be holding a Board workshop to consider proposed revisions to portions of the Water Quality Enforcement Policy. The proposed revisions can be found at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/enforcement/policy_revisions.shtml.

BACKGROUND

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Board) (together “Water Boards”) are the state agencies with primary responsibility for the coordination and control of water quality. In the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Porter-Cologne), the Legislature declared that the “state must be prepared to exercise its full power and jurisdiction to protect the quality of the waters in the state from degradation….” (California Water Code section 13000). Porter-Cologne grants the Water Boards the authority to implement and enforce the water quality laws, regulations, policies and plans to protect the groundwater and surface waters of the State. Timely and consistent enforcement of these laws is critical to the success of the water quality program and to ensure that the people of the State have clean water. It is the policy of the State Water Board that the Water Boards will strive to be fair, firm and consistent in taking enforcement actions throughout the State, while considering the unique facts of each case.

On June 4, 2009, the State Water Board will hold its fourth workshop on proposed revisions to this Policy, and is asking stakeholders to submit comments on the draft and participate in a discussion of the revisions. The Board will not take any action on the Enforcement Policy at the workshop but will consider comments and feedback from stakeholders regarding the proposed changes.
PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The workshop will be informal. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants, but the State Water Board and its staff may ask clarifying questions.

Participants should submit written comments prior to the workshop. At the workshop, participants will be given an opportunity to summarize and supplement their written materials with oral presentations. To ensure a productive and efficient workshop, and to ensure that all participants have an opportunity to participate, oral presentations may be given time limits. Participants with similar comments are requested to make joint presentations.

Participants are requested to provide written comments by 12:00 noon on Thursday, May 28, 2009. When submitting preliminary comments, the State Water Board requests that an original, plus one electronic copy be sent to:

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Office of Enforcement  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Written comments and electronic presentations are to be submitted to Ms. Townsend via email at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. Please indicate in the subject line: “Water Quality Enforcement Policy Workshop 6/4/09.”

Hand and special deliveries should also be addressed to Ms. Townsend at the address above. Couriers delivering comments must check in with lobby security and have them contact Ms. Townsend at (916) 341-5600.

INFORMATION REGARDING WORKSHOP

Please direct any questions concerning this notice to Ann Marie Ore at (916) 327-8195.

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 at: http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPAbldg/location.htm.

Due to enhanced security precautions at the Joe Serna, Jr. (Cal/EPA) Building, all visitors are required to sign in prior to entering the building. Visitors can sign in and obtain badges in the Visitor and Environmental Services Center, which is just inside and to the left of the building’s public entrance. Visitors may be asked to show valid picture identification. Valid identification can take the form of a current driver’s license, military identification card, or state and federal identification cards. Depending on the size and number of meetings scheduled on any given day, the security check-in could take from three to fifteen minutes. Please allow adequate time to sign in before being directed to your meeting.
The Joe Serna, Jr. (Cal/EPA) Coastal Hearing Room is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact Ann Marie Ore at (916) 327-8195, 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.

May 8, 2009
Date

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board