
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND NOTICE OF ADOPTION MEETING

REVISED DRAFT MODEL CRITERIA FOR GROUNDWATER MONITORING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will receive public comments on revised draft Model Criteria for Groundwater Monitoring dated June 23, 2015 (revised draft Model Criteria) in areas of oil and gas well stimulation, as specified in California Water Code section 10783 (Senate Bill 4, Pavley, Statutes of 2013).

NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Board will hold a public meeting to consider the adoption of the revised draft Model Criteria. Interested parties may provide oral comments on the revised draft Model Criteria at this meeting. Details of the public meeting are provided below.

Tuesday, July 7, 2015 – 9:00 a.m.
Joe Serna Jr. - CalEPA Headquarters Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

BACKGROUND

Water Code section 10783, subdivision (c), requires the State Water Board, on or before July 1, 2015, to develop Model Criteria in order to assess the potential effects of well stimulation treatments on the state's groundwater resources. Well stimulation is defined in Article 3 (commencing with section 3150) of Chapter 1 of Division 3 of the Public Resources Code.

The Model Criteria describe how area-specific groundwater monitoring will be conducted by oil and gas operators and how regional groundwater monitoring will be conducted by the State Water Board. Operators will be required to submit groundwater monitoring plans consistent with the Model Criteria to the State Water Board and appropriate Regional Water Board for approval prior to well stimulation activities. The regional monitoring program will assess potential effects that well stimulation and other oil and gas-related activities may have on groundwater quality.

The Model Criteria were developed in consultation with the Department of Conservation Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources, Regional Water Quality Control Boards, public stakeholders, and technical experts. Several stakeholder meetings have been held by State Water Board staff. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), as the State Water Board's expert, has developed recommendations for the State Water Board to consider for the Model Criteria. LLNL's final recommendations are now available on the State Water Board's webpage identified below.

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Proposed draft Model Criteria were released for a thirty-day public comment period on April 29, 2015. The State Water Board held a public workshop on May 19, 2015 to provide information, answer questions, and receive oral comments on the proposed draft Model Criteria. The deadline for submission of written comments on the proposed draft Model Criteria was 12:00 noon on May 29, 2015. Based on comments received on the proposed draft Model Criteria, staff has developed the revised draft Model Criteria dated June 23, 2015.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The revised draft Model Criteria and all related documents are available for review online at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/groundwater/sb4/index.shtml.

You may request a paper copy by contacting Ms. Rachael Tadlock at (916) 341-5568 or Rachael.Tadlock@waterboards.ca.gov.

Additional information on the public meeting in Sacramento can be found on the State Water Board web site at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar/.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The State Water Board will accept written comments on the revised draft Model Criteria. Comments previously submitted on the April 29, 2015 proposed draft Model Criteria need not be resubmitted; the State Water Board is soliciting comments on the revisions contained in the June 23 revised draft Model Criteria. Written comments must be received by **12:00 noon on Tuesday, June 30, 2015** and addressed to:

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

Comment letters may be submitted electronically in pdf text format (less than 15 megabytes in total size), to the Clerk to the Board via e-mail at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. If the file is greater than 15 megabytes in total size, then the comment letter may be submitted by fax at (916) 341-5620. Please indicate on the transmittal subject line: **“Comment Letter – Model Criteria for Groundwater Monitoring.”**

Couriers delivering comment letters must check in with lobby security personnel, who can contact Ms. Townsend at (916) 341-5600.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

At the public meeting there will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants. However, the State Water Board and its staff may ask clarifying questions. Participants will be given an opportunity to summarize and supplement their written materials with oral presentations. No new written materials will be accepted at the meeting. To ensure a productive and efficient meeting in which all participants have an opportunity to participate, oral presentations may be time-limited. For other presentation recommendations, please go to the State Water Board’s web site at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/meetings/board_presentations.shtml

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

For directions to the Joe Serna, Jr. (CalEPA) Building and public parking information, please refer to the map on the State Water Board web site at:

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPAbldg/location.htm>.

The CalEPA Building is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to call (916) 341-5880 at least five working days prior to the meeting. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922. An audio broadcast of the meeting will be available via the Internet and can be accessed at:

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/broadcast>.

All visitors to the CalEPA Building are required to sign in and obtain a badge at the Visitor Services Center located just inside the main entrance (10th Street entrance). Valid picture identification may be required. Please allow up to 15 minutes for receiving security clearance.

FUTURE NOTICES

The State Water Board will hold the public meeting at the time and place noted above. Any change in the date, time, and place of the public workshop and public comment period will be noticed on the State Water Board electronic mailing list. Any persons desiring to receive future notices concerning the Model Criteria must subscribe to the State Water Board's email distribution list. The subscription form is located at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml. To subscribe, select the "Water Quality" category, then check the box for "Oil and Gas Monitoring Operations (SB 4)," and provide the required information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please direct all questions regarding the Model Criteria for Groundwater Monitoring to Ms. Janice Zinky by telephone at (916) 341-5897 or by email to

OilandGas@waterboards.ca.gov.

June 23, 2015
Date



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board