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State Water Resources Control Board

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DRAFT WATER QUALITY CONTROL POLICY FOR DEVELOPING CALIFORNIA'S CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 303(d) LIST AND DRAFT FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENT DOCUMENT

Wednesday, January 28, 2004 – 10:00 a.m.

Coastal Hearing Room – Second Floor
Joe Serna, Jr. Cal/EPA Headquarters Building
1001 "I" Street, Sacramento, CA

and

Thursday, February 5, 2004 – 10:00 a.m.

Torrance Community Meeting Hall
Torrance Cultural Arts Center
3330 Civic Center Drive, Torrance, CA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) will hold a public hearing to seek comments on the proposed Water Quality Control Policy for Developing California's Clean Water Act (CWA) section 303(d) List (Policy). As required by Water Code section 13191.3(a), the Policy contains guidelines to be used by SWRCB and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) in listing and delisting waters pursuant to section 303(d) of the federal CWA (33 U.S.C. section 1313[d]). SWRCB is requesting comments on the draft Functional Equivalent Document (FED) and the draft Policy.

SWRCB will not take final action at the hearing. The draft Policy will be considered for adoption and the draft FED will be considered for approval at a future Board Meeting.

BACKGROUND

Section 303(d) of CWA requires states to identify waters that do not meet applicable water quality standards with certain technology-based controls alone. Applicable standards include the designated beneficial uses, the adopted water quality objectives, and the State's antidegradation policy. The section 303(d) list must include the water quality limited segments, associated pollutants, and a priority ranking of the waters for purposes of developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in the next two years. A TMDL is the maximum load of a pollutant that can be present in a water body without exceeding water quality standards. States are required to submit the section 303(d) list and TMDL priorities to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval in even numbered years.

California Environmental Protection Agency

In 2002, the California Water Code was amended to include section 13191.3(a) requiring the development of guidelines to be used by SWRCB and the RWQCBs in listing, delisting, as well as developing, and implementing TMDLs pursuant to section 303(d) of the federal CWA (33 U.S.C. section 1313[d]). The draft Policy contains the guidelines for listing and delisting waters.

SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT POLICY

SWRCB is developing a statewide Policy for the consistent identification of waters that do not meet water quality standards. The goal of the Policy is to establish a standardized approach for making these determinations. The proposed Policy outlines the decision rules for evaluating data; an approach for analyzing data statistically; and requirements for data quality, data quantity, and administration of the listing process. Decision rules are provided for: chemical-specific water quality standards; bacterial water quality standards; health advisories; bioaccumulation of chemicals in aquatic life tissues; nuisance such as trash, odor, and foam; water and sediment toxicity; adverse biological response; and degradation of aquatic life populations and communities. An approach for interpreting narrative water quality objectives using numeric data is also proposed.

AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT FED AND DRAFT POLICY

Copies of the draft Policy and the draft FED may be obtained via the Internet on the SWRCB web site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/>. You may also receive a CD-R or paper copy by writing or calling: Gena Esteg, Division of Water Quality, State Water Resources Control Board, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100, (916) 341-5566, FAX: (916) 341-5550, esteg@dwq.swrcb.ca.gov.

SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

SWRCB will accept both written and oral comments on the draft Policy and draft FED at the hearing. Comments must be limited to the draft Policy and to the draft FED. In order for SWRCB to adequately consider written comments, all interested parties are requested to submit their comments to SWRCB no later than 5:00 p.m., February 11, 2004. Comments will be accepted via mail or facsimile.

Written comments should be submitted to:

Craig J. Wilson
TMDL Listing Unit
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100
FAX: (916) 341-5550

At the hearing, participants are encouraged to briefly summarize their written comments. Time limitations on oral presentations may be imposed. Persons with similar views are encouraged to make joint presentations. SWRCB will consider all comments before taking final action on the draft Policy.

COURT REPORTER

A court reporter will record all the oral comments made during the public hearing. Persons who desire a copy of the hearing transcript must make their own arrangements with the court reporter.

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

The hearing and public parking locations are indicated on the enclosed maps.

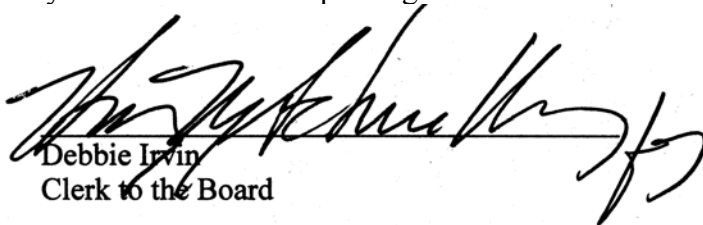
Cal/EPA:

There is a parking garage across the street from the Joe Serna, Jr. Cal/EPA Building with entrances on 10th and 11th Streets between "I" and "J" Streets, and metered parking spaces are in the vicinity of the building. Enclosed is a map, or see our website at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPABldg/location.htm>. The facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact Adrian Perez at (916) 341-5880 at least five working days prior to the public hearing 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 telephones equipped with a TDD Device. HEARING IMPAIRED RELAY SERVICE: TDD to voice 1-800-735-2929, voice to TDD 1-800-735-2922.

All visitors are required to sign in and receive a badge prior to attending the hearing. The Visitor and Environmental Services Center is located just inside and to the left of the Cal/EPA Building's public entrance. Valid picture identification may be required, so please allow up to 15 minutes.

Torrance Cultural Arts Center:

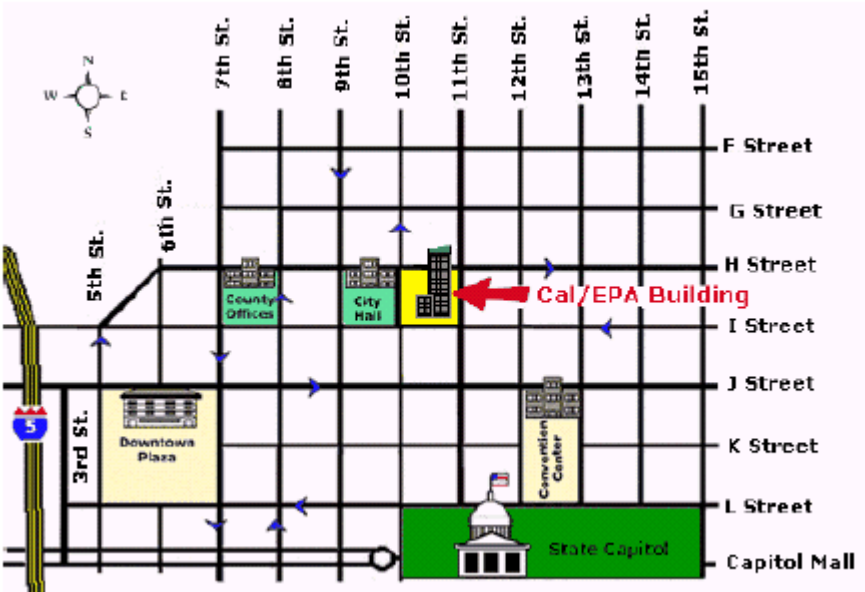
There is public parking available at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center. The public hearing will be held at the Community Meeting Hall building within the Torrance Cultural Arts Center complex. Enclosed is a map, or see their website at <http://www.tcac.torrcnet.com/directions.htm>. The Community Meeting Hall is located to your left in the large multi-building complex once you have entered the parking lot.



Debbie Irwin
Clerk to the Board

Date: December 2, 2003

Enclosures (3)





From Downtown Los Angeles:

Take the 110 Fwy South to the 405 Fwy North and exit at Crenshaw Blvd. From the off ramp, turn left onto 182nd St., then make a left onto Crenshaw Blvd. Travel south on Crenshaw to Torrance Blvd. Turn right onto Torrance Blvd. and travel west to Madrona Ave. Turn right onto Madrona Ave. and turn into the first driveway on the right hand side. The Torrance Cultural Arts Center is the large multi-building complex to your left once you have entered the parking lot.

From Los Angeles Int' Airport (LAX):

Take the 105 East to the 405 South and exit at Crenshaw Blvd. From the off ramp, turn right onto Crenshaw Blvd and travel south to Torrance Blvd. Turn right onto Torrance Blvd. and travel west to Madrona Ave. Turn right onto Madrona Ave. and turn into the first driveway on the right hand side. The Torrance Cultural Arts Center is the large multi-building complex to your left once you have entered the parking lot.

From San Diego:

Take the 5 North (turns into the 405 North) and exit at Crenshaw Blvd. From the off ramp, turn left onto 182nd St., then make a left onto Crenshaw Blvd. Travel south on Crenshaw to Torrance Blvd. Turn right onto Torrance Blvd. and travel west to Madrona Ave. Turn right onto Madrona Ave. and turn into the first driveway on the right hand side. The Torrance Cultural Arts Center is the large multi-building complex to your left once you have entered the parking lot.



Torrance Cultural Arts Center

