
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, AND ADOPTION MEETING

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED ORDER REVISING STATE WATER BOARD ORDER WRO 2002-0013, AN ORDER APPROVING THE LONG-TERM TRANSFER OF WATER FROM THE IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT TO SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY, THE COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT, AND THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

*At the State Water Resources Control Board's regularly scheduled meeting on:
Tuesday or Wednesday, November 7 - 8, 2017
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, California*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will consider the adoption of a proposed order revising State Water Board Order WRO 2002-0013, an order approving the long term transfer of water from the Imperial Irrigation District to the San Diego County Water Authority, the Coachella Valley Water District and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

BACKGROUND

On October 28, 2002, the State Water Board issued Order WRO 2002-0013¹ that approved the long-term transfer of water from the Imperial Irrigation District to the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), the Coachella Valley Water District and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. On November 18, 2014, the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) filed a Petition for Change seeking modification of Revised Order WRO 2002-0013. In May 2015, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. established the Salton Sea Task Force to identify realistic short and medium term goals to respond to potential air quality and ecological impacts resulting from scheduled reduced flows of fresh water to the Salton Sea. The State Water Board regularly monitors and assesses progress on the implementation of the Salton Sea Task Force's Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP), and has held six public workshops as part of this function. California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) has prepared Phase 1 of the SSMP in furtherance of its Salton Sea Restoration objectives and is committed to constructing and maintaining habitat and dust-suppression projects that address public health and environmental concerns. The SSMP contemplates future phases, and a long-range plan. On March 15, 2017, IID filed a motion with the State Water Board seeking to have an evidentiary hearing to address its November 18, 2014 petition regarding Salton Sea

¹On December 20, 2002, the State Water Board issued Order WRO 2002-0016, which revised Order WRO 2002-0013.

Restoration. As a result of the motion, a draft stipulated order was developed for consideration by the State Water Board during a public workshop held on September 7, 2017. The draft stipulated order was revised following comments at the workshop and subsequent negotiations, resulting in a final draft stipulated order being shared with the State Water Board on October 20, 2017. CNRA, IID, SDCWA, Imperial County, Audubon California, Defenders of Wildlife California, Sierra Club California, and the Pacific Institute (collectively Supporting Parties) have attested to their support for the final draft stipulated order.

The final draft stipulated order acknowledges agreements and commitments reached among the Supporting Parties related to the SSMP, accepts the schedule of activities and milestones for SSMP Phase 1, and sets a schedule for information collection and future workshops before the State Water Board. The final draft stipulated order recognizes the restoration activities that are underway or planned and requires reporting on those activities.

The State Water Board has prepared a proposed order based on the final draft stipulated order, which will be considered for adoption during the November 7-8 Board meeting.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

For purposes of CEQA, CNRA is the lead agency for restoration actions described in the SSMP and referred to in the proposed order. The proposed order itself is not a project subject to CEQA. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15061, subd. (b)(3).) To the extent that the proposed order is subject to CEQA, the proposed order is categorically exempt from CEQA under the Class 4 categorical exemption for minor alterations to land, the Class 6 categorical exemption for information collection, the Class 7 categorical exemption for actions by regulatory agencies for protection of natural resources, and the Class 8 categorical exemption for actions by regulatory agencies for protection of the environment. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 15304, 15306, 15307, 15308.) If the State Water Board adopts the proposed order, it will issue a Notice of Exemption.

For copies of the Motion for Evidentiary Hearing and final draft stipulated order, as well as more information about the background and history of the State Water Board's involvement with the Salton Sea, please visit the State Water Board's web page at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/salton_sea/

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The proposed order may be found on our webpage at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/salton_sea/

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

Interested persons must submit written comments by **12:00 p.m. on Friday, November 3, 2017** as follows:

- For submittals less than 15 megabytes in total size, interested persons should email the submittal to Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board, at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. Please indicate in the subject line: "**Comment Letter: Salton Sea**".

- For submittals more than 15 megabytes in total size, interested persons should:
(1) email a summary of their written information to Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board, at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov; and (2) mail or hand deliver any additional information on a CD/DVD. For emails and other correspondence, please indicate in the subject line: “**Comment Letter: Salton Sea**”.
 - Mail should be postmarked by the comment deadline indicated above and addressed as follows:

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
 - Hand deliveries should be delivered by the comment deadline indicated above to the following address:

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
Joe Serna, Jr.-CalEPA Headquarters Building
1001 I Street, 24th Floor, Sacramento, CA

Interested persons with hand deliveries must check in with the Visitor and Environmental Services Center on the first floor of the Joe Serna, Jr.-CalEPA Headquarters Building. Couriers delivering comments must check in with lobby security and have them contact Jeanine Townsend at (916) 341-5600.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS FOR THE ADOPTION MEETING

This item will be held as part of a regular meeting of the State Water Board. At the adoption meeting, participants will be given an opportunity to summarize their written comments in oral presentations. No new evidence (e.g. photographs, data, testimony) may be submitted at the adoption meeting and all comments will be treated as non-evidentiary policy statements. 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

Any presentation materials submitted must include the subject line: “**Presentation: Salton Sea**.” The deadline and requirements for presentation materials shall be specified in the Board meeting agenda, once available, at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar

FUTURE NOTICES

For updates on current issues regarding Water Board activities in and around the Salton Sea, subscribe to the Water Board’s email subscription service: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml

TRAVEL, ACCESSIBILITY, AND SECURITY

Details regarding webcasting of the meeting, and travel to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California shall be provided in State Water Board’s agenda for the November 7-8, 2017 Board Meeting.

A public notice and the agenda for the November 7-8, 2017 State Water Board meeting will be released at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. The agenda will be posted on the following web page, which also includes a link for email subscriptions to receive updates regarding State Water Board meeting agendas:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct any inquiries concerning this notice to Mitchell Moody at (916) 341-5383 or mitchell.moody@waterboards.ca.gov.

Additional information is also available at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/salton_sea/

October 26, 2017

Date



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board