



NOTICE OF PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION WATER TRANSFER PROCESS STREAMLINING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the staff of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) will hold a listening session to solicit ideas on recommendations to streamline the review process for temporary water transfers, in which water can be transferred for up to one year.

The Listening Session will be held as follows:

Tuesday, April 29, 2014 – 9:00 a.m.
Joe Serna Jr. – Cal/EPA Headquarters Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

State Water Board members may be present, however no action will be taken. The purpose of the listening session is to obtain input to inform efforts by the State Water Board and DWR to streamline water transfers. Information provided will be considered in the context of near-term and long-term planning for improvements in transfer processing.

BACKGROUND AND AGENDA

On May 20, 2013, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. issued [Governor's Executive Order B-21-13](#) (Executive Order), for the purpose of streamlining approval for water transfers to address dry conditions and water delivery limitations. The Executive Order directs the State Water Board and DWR to expedite processing of water transfers and to assist water transfer proponents and suppliers, as necessary, provided that the transfers are consistent with the Water Code, will not harm other legal users of water and will not unreasonably affect fish, wildlife, or other instream beneficial uses. The State Water Board and DWR were also directed to make all efforts to coordinate with relevant federal agencies, water districts, and water agencies to expedite the review and approval of water transfers in California.

On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown issued a [Proclamation of a Drought State of Emergency](#) (Proclamation). The Proclamation finds that dry conditions and lack of precipitation present urgent problems to drinking water supplies and cultivation of crops, which put farmers' long-term investments at risk. The conditions also threaten the survival of animals and plants that rely on California's rivers, including many species in danger of extinction. The Proclamation directed the State Water Board and DWR to expedite the processing of water transfers as set forth in Executive Order B-21-13.

Proposed Agenda

- Overview of State Water Board Transfer role and current process (20 minutes)
- Overview of DWR Water Transfer role and current process (20 minutes)
- Public Comments on Streamlining Water Transfers

This Listening Session is designed as a forum for public input on the agencies' streamlined water transfer processes, rather than discussion of specific transfer projects. Input received during the session will be taken into consideration in determining whether to modify the agencies' water transfer processes in the short and long term. Please note that this event is focused on gathering public input on water transfer streamlining, and as such will not include an open discussion regarding comments received.

DWR and the State Water Board seek suggestions for improving:

- availability of information on water transfers
- responses to comments on water transfer proposals.
- coordination between transfer approval agencies
- available information on impacts due to water transfers
- evaluation of surface water, groundwater, and environmental impacts related to water transfers.

Each commenter may be asked to limit their remarks to five minutes, depending on the number of parties present. Parties of like interests are encouraged to consolidate their comments and may pool their allotted time in a joint statement. If public comments continue until noon, a break will be taken from noon to 1:00 pm. The Listening Session will end at 4:00 pm.

Parties also may submit written comments, either in lieu of or in support of their verbal comments. Comments will be collected for consideration in future transfer efforts, however the State Water Board and DWR will not be providing formal responses to comments. Written comments may be submitted to:

Department of Water Resources, Attention: Nancy Quan, State Water Project Analysis Office, P.O. Box 942836, Sacramento, California 94236, or via email to Nancy.Quan@water.ca.gov

WEBCAST OF PUBLIC MEETING

A broadcast of the meeting is planned via the Internet, to be accessed at:

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

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

For directions to the Cal/EPA Building and public parking information, please refer to the map on the State Water Board's Web site at: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPAbldg/location.htm>. The Cal/EPA 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. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

All visitors to the Cal/EPA building are required to sign in and obtain a badge at the Visitor Services Center located inside the main entrance. Valid picture identification may be required. Please allow up to 15 minutes for receiving security clearance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Questions may be directed to Kathy Mrowka, Senior WRCE, State Water Board Division of Water Rights at (916)341-5363 or Kathy.Mrowka@waterboards.ca.gov

Date: March 28, 2014