
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

STATEWIDE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS VARIANCE POLICY

January 23, 2017

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Joe Serna Jr. - CalEPA Headquarters Bldg.

Coastal Hearing Room

1001 I Street, Second Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

Webcast access via <https://video.calepa.ca.gov>

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff have scheduled a public scoping meeting to discuss and solicit comments and suggestions regarding a proposal to establish a statewide water quality standards variance policy (Variance Policy).

The Variance Policy will be included in a proposal to establish statewide numeric bacteria objectives for the water contact recreation (REC-1) beneficial use and implementing provisions (Bacteria Provisions). The combined proposals will be included in a statewide water quality control plan titled, "Part 3 of the Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California—Establishing Bacteria Provisions and a Variance Policy." State Water Board staff held two scoping meetings for the Bacteria Objectives in 2015. The scoping meeting at the above date and location is limited to the proposed Variance Policy.

The purpose of the scoping meeting is to engage in early consultation with public agencies and members of the public to solicit input regarding the range of project actions, alternatives, reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance, significant and cumulative impacts, if any, and potential mitigation measures that the State Water Board may need to analyze in the course of developing the Variance Policy. Comments submitted to the State Water Board will assist staff in the development of the Variance Policy.

Although a quorum of State Water Board members may be present, the board will not take any action at the scoping meeting.

AVAILABLE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

An informational scoping document and other relevant documents are available electronically on the State Water Board Web site at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bacterialobjectives>

SUBMISSION OF SCOPING COMMENTS

The State Water Board will accept both written and oral comments on the scope and content of the information included in the scoping meeting documents. Comments should be limited to the proposed Variance Policy.

Oral comments may be received at the scoping meeting. Written comments **must be received by 12:00 noon on Friday, February 3, 2017**. Interested persons or public agencies are encouraged to submit written comments electronically. Comment letters may be submitted electronically, in pdf text format (if less than 15 megabytes in total size), to the Clerk to the Board via email 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. Written comment letters may also be mailed to:

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

Please also indicate in the subject line, "**Comment Letter - Variance Policy – Scoping Comments.**"

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

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

This is to advise that the State Water Board is proposing to adopt the Variance Policy in accordance with a regulatory program exempt under section 21080.5 of the Public Resources Code from the requirement to prepare an environmental impact report under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and with other applicable laws and regulations. The State Water Board will prepare substitute environmental documentation or a "SED", rather than an environmental impact report, before adopting Part 3 of the Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California—Establishing Bacteria Objectives, Implementation Provisions, and a Variance Policy. In the SED, the State Water Board must analyze any potential adverse environmental effects associated with the proposal. This scoping meeting will help guide the Board's environmental analysis. Oral comments received at the scoping meeting and timely submitted written comments will be considered when the Board prepares the SED.

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

The CalEPA Building is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to call (916) 341-5880 at least 5 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. Video and audio broadcasts of the meeting will be available via the internet and can be accessed at: <https://video.calepa.ca.gov>

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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct questions about this notice to Mr. Nick Martorano, Senior Environmental Scientist at (916) 341-5240 or Nicholas.Martorano@waterboards.ca.gov or Ms. Stacy Gillespie, Senior Staff Counsel at (916) 341-5190 or Stacy.Gillespie@waterboards.ca.gov.

January 13, 2017

Date



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board