
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF STAFF WORKSHOP

DELTA MERCURY CONTROL PROGRAM REVIEW STAFF REPORT FOR SCIENTIFIC PEER REVIEW

**12 September 2024
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Central Valley Water Board staff will release a report summarizing the review of the Delta Mercury Control Program and hold a staff workshop.

The Central Valley Water Board established a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for methylmercury and an associated implementation plan, collectively referred to as the Delta Mercury Control Program (DMCP). The DMCP was designed to protect human and wildlife health in the Delta and meet the Central Valley's total mercury load allocation from the San Francisco Bay Water Board. The DMCP was adopted by the Central Valley Water Board on 22 April 2010 as an amendment to the Central Valley Region Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins. The TMDL was approved by USEPA on 20 April 2011.

The DMCP is implemented through a phased, adaptive management approach where Phase 1 required entities discharging methylmercury in the Delta to conduct source control studies and to develop and evaluate methylmercury management methods. Phase 1 of the DMCP also required a program review, referred to as the DMCP Review, that would incorporate information learned during Phase 1 that could inform potential changes to the DMCP.

The Staff Report for Scientific Peer Review (Technical Review Report or Report) presents Central Valley Water Board staff's technical review of certain aspects of the Phase 1 DMCP. The report contains reevaluations of water quality objectives (WQO), sources, and allocations to address the mercury impairment in the Delta in light of comprehensive water quality studies and data that were collected as part of Phase 1. The Report is a technical review of the current program and presents potential refinements to the current DMCP approach based on new data. For instance, the Report affirms that regulated sources of mercury within the Delta, including wastewater plants, irrigated agriculture, and stormwater, are not the most significant drivers of methylmercury impairments in the Delta. In contrast, the Report describes methylmercury inputs from tributary watersheds and open water sediment flux as comprising an even larger proportional share of methylmercury loading to the Delta than was previously estimated. Findings in the Report may be used to identify potential modifications of the DMCP, including modifications to: methylmercury goals, site-specific WQOs, load and waste load allocations, requirements and schedules for

MARK BRADFORD, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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implementing methylmercury management practices, final compliance date(s), and the creation of a mercury offset program.

The Technical Review Report is the first step in completing the Basin Plan's required reevaluation of the Phase 1 DMCP. Peer review of the new data and scientific conclusions will help establish a baseline that program alternatives may be compared against. Therefore, Board staff are releasing the Report for external scientific peer review and simultaneously releasing the report publicly.

Central Valley Water Board staff are committed to working with Tribes, permittees, local/State government, USEPA, NGOs, communities, and others to inform potential DMCP modification options for the Board's consideration. The purpose of the staff workshop will be to provide participants with an opportunity to discuss the Technical Review Report. Please note this is not a formal written comment period for a proposed board action. A public meeting where formal oral and written comments are accepted will be held at a later date. This meeting will be hosted by Board staff; a quorum of the Board will not be present.

Staff Workshop Date and Location

This workshop will be hosted at the Central Valley Water Board (Rancho Cordova Office) Training Room and online (via Microsoft Teams). Participants may attend either in person or remotely.

Date: 12 September 2024

Time: 10:00 – 12:00 PST

Place: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Training Room
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Link to Meeting (https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_MTRjOGMxNDMtZmY3NS00YmQ2LTgwYWEtYjBjMzk3M2Q4NzAw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22fe186a25-7d49-41e6-9941-05d2281d36c1%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%226524f004-f8f9-4efd-8748-734c1003a396%22%7d)

Meeting ID: 281 041 652 02

Passcode: X3n5UB

Or call in (audio only): [+1 916-562-0861,,902538067#](tel:+19165620861902538067) US (Sacramento)

Phone Conference ID: 902 538 067#

General instructions on how to join the meeting via computer or phone

[Instructions on Joining a Zoom Meeting via Computer](#)

[Instructions on Joining a Zoom Meeting via Phone](#)

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Questions and comments will be taken at the end of the presentation. If you would like to provide oral comments, please “Raise your hand” during the Zoom meeting. If you called into the meeting from a telephone, use “Star (*) 9” to raise/ lower your hand.

Once your hand is raised and it is your turn to speak, unmute yourself (Star (*) 6 if calling in), announce your name, and you will be able to make your public comment.

Language Services and Accessibility

Individuals requiring special accommodations or language translation services are requested to contact RB5S-MercuryProgram@waterboards.ca.gov or Lauren Leles at (916) 464-4668 **at least 5 business days prior to the meeting.**

Telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at: TTY (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

Availability of Documents

The Delta Mercury Control Program Review Staff Report for Scientific Peer Review can be accessed from the Central Valley Water Board’s [Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Methylmercury TMDL website](#).

Contact Information

Questions regarding this notice should be directed to Lauren Leles at (916) 464-4668 or Lauren.Leles@waterboards.ca.gov. Persons wishing to subscribe to the “Delta Mercury TMDL” electronic mailing list can do so by following the instructions on the [Central Valley Water Board’s Email List Subscriptions webpage](#).

Please bring the above information to the attention of those who may be interested.