
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

**ADMINISTRATIVE DRAFT OF A
PROPOSED BASIN PLAN AMENDMENT
TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SAN DIEGO BASIN TO
ESTABLISH BIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) will hold a public workshop to provide an opportunity for discussion and to receive comments and information from the public on an Administrative Draft of a proposed amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (Basin Plan) to establish biological water quality objectives (biological objectives) for surface waters in the San Diego Region. The public workshop will be conducted during a regularly scheduled meeting of the San Diego Water Board. No action or voting on this item will occur, but San Diego Water Board members may provide direction to staff.

Public Workshop

The objective of the workshop is to inform the public about the Administrative Draft of the proposed Basin Plan amendment and to receive information regarding community perspectives on the Administrative Draft. The public is invited to present comments and ask clarifying questions. Written comments may also be submitted in advance to help frame the discussion during the workshop. Comments and information received during the workshop will be considered by the San Diego Water Board in finalizing a tentative Basin Plan amendment that will be released for formal public review and comment at a later date.

The San Diego Water Board meeting will commence at the following time and location:

February 14, 2018, 9:00 A.M
San Diego Water Board, Board Meeting Room
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100; San Diego, California 92108

Written Comments on the Administrative Draft

Please review and provide any written comments on the administrative draft by **5:00 p.m. on February 23, 2018**. Comments should be submitted via email to sandiego@waterboards.ca.gov in text searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) or Microsoft Word format. Written comments can also be submitted via regular mail to the San Diego Water Board office at 2375 Northside Drive, San Diego, CA 92108. Please indicate in the subject line of the email or comment letter "825417: Comment – Administrative Draft of Proposed Basin Plan Amendment to Incorporate Biological Objectives, Attn: Chad Loflen."

The San Diego Water Board will consider any comments received on the Administrative Draft. Comments received by February 23, 2018, will be included in the administrative record for the Tentative Basin Plan amendment but will not receive written responses. The San Diego Water Board will issue a separate public hearing notice announcing the release of the Tentative Basin Plan amendment and substitute environmental documentation for formal public review and comment in accordance with 23 CCR §. 3779 and 40 C.F.R. § 25.5(b) and 25.10.

Background

The objective of the Clean Water Act is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. The Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin designates beneficial uses for water bodies in the San Diego Region and establishes water quality objectives and implementation plans to protect those beneficial uses. Existing water quality objectives in the San Diego Water Board's Basin Plan emphasize the chemical integrity of waters on a pollutant-by-pollutant basis, which might not adequately protect the biological integrity of waters.

The San Diego Water Board [2014 triennial review](#) of water quality standards identified the amendment of the Basin Plan to incorporate biological water quality objectives as a high priority in order to protect and restore beneficial uses associated with aquatic and aquatic dependent wildlife. On May 13, 2015, the San Diego Water Board adopted [Resolution R9-2015-0043](#), which directed staff to begin working on the project to amend the Basin Plan to incorporate biological water quality objectives. The goal and intent of the biological objectives project is to establish a water quality objective based on the biological integrity of the organisms (e.g. macroinvertebrates) in the water body. Adopting biological water quality objectives would allow the San Diego Water Board to use biological assessment ("bioassessment") to better assess, protect, and restore surface waters and related beneficial uses.

The San Diego Water Board will be proposing to amend the Basin Plan to incorporate a general narrative biological water quality objective for all water bodies in the San Diego Region and a numeric biological water quality objective for wadable streams. The proposed narrative biological objective would apply to surface waters in the San Diego region, and is drafted as follows:

Surface waters within the San Diego Region shall support an ecologically balanced and resilient community of organisms having a native species composition, diversity, abundance, and functional organization commensurate with that of unaltered analogous waters.

The proposed numeric biological water quality objective would use the California Stream Condition Index, in combination with additional lines of evidence for chemistry and stream habitat, to score the condition of a wadeable stream in comparison to reference streams. Both the narrative and numeric biological water quality objectives would be implemented through the San Diego Water Board's existing permitting and planning programs.

Document Availability

The Administrative Draft of the Basin Plan amendment and Staff Report will be available for review on the San Diego Water Board web site by January 22, 2018, at the following location:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/bio_objectives/

Directions and Parking

For directions to the San Diego Water Board, please refer to:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/about_us/contact_us/

Two-hour free parking is available on a first-come first-serve basis, and long-term fee parking is available in an adjacent parking structure.

Accessibility

The facility is accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who have special accommodation or language needs, please contact Ms. Chris Blank by phone at (619) 521-3382 or by email at cblank@waterboards.ca.gov at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may dial 7-1-1 for the California Relay Service.

Additional Information

To receive future updates by email, subscribe to the "**Biological Objectives for the San Diego Region**" email list on our Email Subscriptions web page:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg9_subscribe.shtml

For additional information, please contact Chad Loflen, Senior Environmental Scientist, at (619) 521-3370 or at Chad.Loflen@waterboards.ca.gov