

---

## State Water Resources Control Board

### **August 2023 State Board Liaison Report**

#### **Media Releases**

- **July 11:** [Next phase of recycled water begins for California](#)
- **July 12:** [State Water Board releases draft report on expediting permitting for seawater desalination plants](#)

#### **Desalination Siting and Streamlining Report**

- On July 10 State Water Board staff released the [Draft Seawater Desalination Siting and Streamlining Report to Expedite Permitting \(Draft Report\)](#) for public comment, and the deadline for comments was July 28. The Draft Report was developed by a Seawater Desalination Interagency Group headed by the state board, as part of the [Water Supply Strategy](#).
- On July 21 staff hosted an [informational public webinar](#) to provide an overview of the recommendations and describe the process for submitting comments on the Draft Report. State board staff, in coordination with the Seawater Desalination Interagency Group, considered comments and are in the process of finalizing the Draft Report for submittal to the Governor's Office.

#### **Hexavalent Chromium Maximum Contaminant Level**

- On August 2 the state board [will conduct a public hearing](#) for a proposed hexavalent chromium maximum contaminant level (MCL) regulations. SWRCB-DDW-21-003.

#### **Once-Through Cooling**

- [On August 15](#) the state board will consider adoption of the proposed final amendment to the Water Quality Control Policy on the use of coastal and estuarine waters for power plant cooling (Once-Through Cooling or OTC Policy) to Revise the Compliance Schedules for the Alamitos, Huntington Beach, Ormond Beach, and Scattergood Generating Stations, and the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, as well as the proposed final staff report and the responses to comments, are now available on the OTC policy program's official policy documents [webpage](#).

#### **Scott River Minimum Flows**

- On August 15 the State Water Board will [hold a public hearing](#) to receive oral comments from interested parties and the general public on the Petition for Rulemaking to set minimum flows on the Scott River (Petition).

#### **Direct Potable Reuse Regulations**

- On July 21 the state board [released proposed regulations](#) for direct potable reuse.
- The public hearing will be conducted [on September 7](#), during a regularly scheduled state board meeting.

**FY 2023-24 Fee Stakeholder Meetings**

- [August 3](#) – Water Quality and Water Rights Fees Stakeholder Meetings
- [August 4](#) – Drinking Water and ELAP Fees Stakeholder Meetings
- Meeting will be held remotely via webcast and Zoom. Participation instructions will be sent to reach fee program’s email list subscribers prior to each meeting.

**Clean Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan & Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan**

- The proposed [DWSRF](#) IUP was adopted by the state board during the July 18 state board meeting. The adoption hearing for the [CWSRF](#) IUP was delayed.

**SAFER**

- On July 14, state board staff [held a public webinar](#) to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to learn about and provide feedback on the overview of the proposed Drinking Water Cost Assessment Model updates.
- On August 11 the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Advisory Group [will hold its third meeting](#) of 2023.

## California's Water Supply Strategy Implementation Actions

Water Rights staff are working on Item 4.3 of the California Water Supply Strategy to “[m]odernize water rights administration for equity, access, flexibility, and transparency,” which supports the broader action of the Strategy to “[i]mprove all water management actions with better data, forecasting, conveyance, and administration of water rights.” Specifically, staff are working on the Updating Water Right Data for California (UPWARD) effort as directed in the Strategy. On June 15, 2023, the Division of Water Rights opened the application period for membership in the UPWARD Advisory Group. The Group will be composed of approximately 20 members that represent different water right holders and interests, including tribes, from throughout California. Applications were accepted through July 28, 2023, and the first meeting is tentatively scheduled for mid-September 2023. Details on the application process and expectations for the Group are available on the Board’s [UPWARD website](#).

On July 10, 2023, State Water Board staff released the [Draft Seawater Desalination Siting and Streamlining Report to Expedite Permitting \(Draft Report\)](#) for public comment. The Draft Report was developed by a Seawater Desalination Interagency Group headed by the State Water Board and comprised of state and federal agencies that review environmental documents and permit or lease applications for proposed seawater desalination facilities, to fulfill a directive in [California's Water Supply Strategy: Adapting to a Hotter Drier Future](#). The Seawater Desalination Interagency Group identified criteria for siting seawater desalination projects where they are cost effective and environmentally appropriate to facilitate approval under existing regulatory requirements, as well as recommendations for potential changes to the requirements to streamline permitting. The Seawater Desalination Interagency Group hosted an informational public webinar on Friday, July 21, 2023 to share the impetus and approach for developing the Draft Report, provide an overview of the recommendations, and describe the process for submitting comments on the Draft Report. State Board staff, in coordination with the Seawater Desalination Interagency Group, considered comments and are in the process of finalizing the Draft Report for submittal to the Governor’s Office.

*Report prepared by Meredith Thompson & approved by Eileen Sobeck.*