
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

June 23, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP & CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT SCOPING MEETING

Proposed Basin Plan amendment to support nutrient reductions to San Francisco Bay

July 23, 2026, 3:30 pm – 5 pm

Click to Join Zoom Meeting

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/231707421232961?p=LC7MzyqAxbMsBkiIH5>

Meeting ID: 231 707 421 232 961

Passcode: Pw3ke2ff

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Phone conference ID: 912 774 024#

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) staff will hold a public workshop and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting to seek public input on the scope, content, and potential environmental effects of amending the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin ([Basin Plan](#)) to support nutrient reductions from wastewater treatment plants also known as publicly-owned treatment works (POTWs). In general, this project defines a narrow set of conditions under which POTW compliance schedules to achieve the 40 percent bay-wide nutrient reduction required by Water Board Order [R2-2024-0013](#) (2024 NPDES Permit) may be extended and the information required to justify such an extension. The meeting will be conducted by video and teleconference. Members of the public will be able to listen to and watch the meeting using the link provided above and ask questions or make comments at the meeting.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As the region's master policy document, the Basin Plan contains the water quality objectives needed to protect the designated beneficial uses (e.g., recreation, fish habitat, water supply) of San Francisco Bay and its tributaries. It also contains the regulatory programs and actions, as well as water quality attainment strategies, for meeting water quality objectives and protecting beneficial uses.

DONALD YOUNG, CHAIR | EILEEN M. WHITE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

This project affects compliance schedules which are a schedule of remedial measures, including an enforceable sequence of actions or operations leading to compliance with an effluent limitation, other limitations, prohibition, or standard included in NPDES permits. The compliance schedule requires compliance as soon as possible and specifies the maximum time a discharger has to comply with effluent limitations and includes requirements to report annually on project milestones. The State Water Board's Compliance Schedule Policy ([Resolution 2008-0025](#)) allows for a maximum of ten years to comply with a more stringent effluent limitation in an NPDES permit if it is derived from a new interpretation of a water quality objective or criterion. A ten-year compliance schedule was granted for POTWs in the 2024 NPDES Permit due to the complexity of complying with the substantial 40 percent nutrient reduction. However, as noted in [Resolution R2-2024-0014](#), multi-benefit projects may be difficult to complete in 10 years, creating the need for longer compliance schedules for those specific projects. Additionally, dischargers have submitted compelling information to the Water Board demonstrating that some conventional nutrient reduction projects will also take more than ten years to complete.

In general, the proposed Basin Plan amendment establishes criteria for extending the maximum compliance schedule duration allowed in NPDES permits for two main categories of nutrient reduction projects.

1. Qualifying Special Projects – This category would require compliance as soon as possible and allow a compliance schedule maximum extension of up to five years for qualifying special projects, which are one of the following: a) nature-based solution projects such as open treatment wetlands or horizontal levees, b) water recycling projects, c) innovative nutrient reduction methods which require extensive pilot testing and have environmental co-benefits, and d) conventional nutrient reduction projects that result in treated effluent well below the final effluent limitation of 20.5 mg/L of total inorganic nitrogen. For example, POTWs have until October 1, 2034, to achieve the final effluent limitations established in the compliance schedule set by the 2024 NPDES Permit. Thus, under this amendment, Qualifying Special Projects may be granted a compliance schedule extension up to October 1, 2039, in a future NPDES permit.
2. Qualifying Conventional Projects – This category would require compliance as soon as possible and allow a compliance schedule maximum extension of up to five years from the October 1, 2034, deadline established in the 2024 NPDES Permit for qualifying conventional projects which are either a) infeasible to be constructed by October 1, 2034, due to the need for sequencing the construction elements, or b) became necessary because pilot tests demonstrated the innovative Qualifying Special Project did not achieve the necessary reduction at full scale.

An additional component of the proposed amendment would allow a longer compliance schedule for Union Sanitary District because they were already constructing a large-scale nutrient reduction project two years before issuance of the NPDES permit and

must complete that initial project before beginning to construct a second nutrient reduction project, should the second project be necessary.

PROJECT LOCATION

Possible environmental effects of this project would primarily occur near POTWs within the San Francisco Bay Region. The map below includes the general region and wastewater treatment plant locations.

REASONABLY FORESEEABLE METHODS OF COMPLIANCE

As a result of this amendment, some of the forty POTWs may construct and operate Qualifying Special Projects instead of conventional biological nutrient reduction projects. For example, nature-based solutions such as horizontal levees or open treatment wetlands may be built near some POTWs, along the margins of San Francisco Bay. In regard to the Qualifying Conventional Projects, some POTWs may build the same wastewater project that would have otherwise been built without this amendment.

ANTICIPATED PROJECT MILESTONES

- July 23, 2026 – CEQA scoping meeting
- Winter 2026-2027 – Draft project documents available for 45-day public review and comment period
- Spring/Summer 2027 – Regional Water Board adoption hearing

MEETING FORMAT

The meeting will be conducted virtually and in person. The link to join the Teams meeting via computer or dial-in phone number are provided at the top of this notice.

The meeting will consist of a public workshop where Water Board staff will describe the project followed by a question-and-answer session. Immediately following the workshop, Water Board staff will open a public scoping meeting. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 3775.5.).

PURPOSE OF CEQA SCOPING

The Water Board is required to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of a Basin Plan amendment and will incorporate this environmental analysis into Substitute Environmental Documentation pursuant to CEQA and the Water Board's certified regulatory program for basin planning. (Pub. Res. Code, § 21000 et seq.; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, 15251; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 3775 et seq.) The SED will include the CEQA environmental checklist. All environmental resources identified on the CEQA environmental checklist will be considered with a focus on the following resources:

aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology, soils and paleontology, greenhouse gases, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, transportation/traffic, Tribal Cultural Resources, and utilities and service systems. The environmental analysis will evaluate potential physical environmental impacts on these resources that primarily could occur within or near existing wastewater treatment plants. The Water Board considers this project to be initiated as of the date of this notice. This date will be used to establish baseline conditions pursuant to CEQA (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15125).

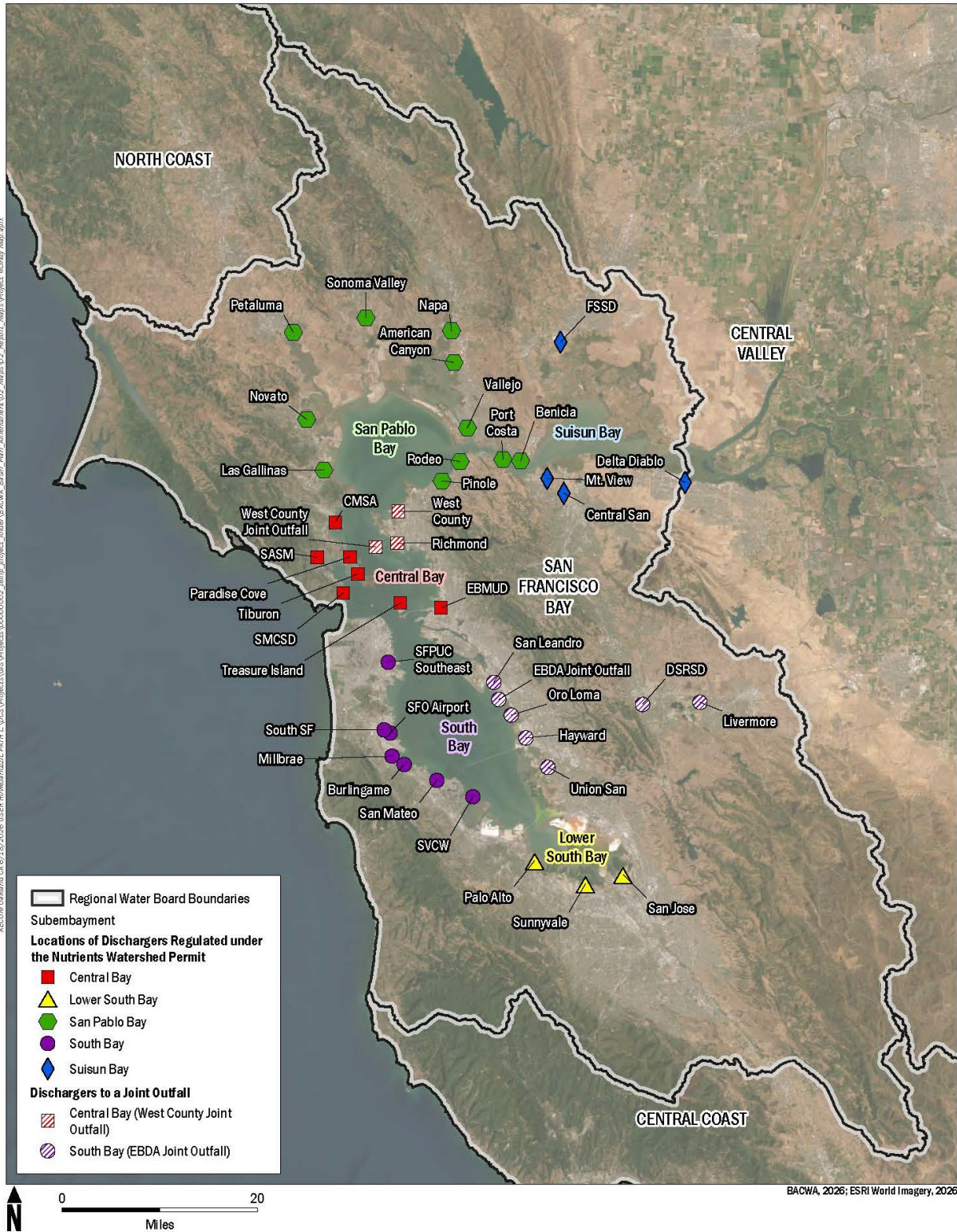
During the scoping session, Water Board staff will discuss and take comments from the public on the scope and content of the project and its potential environmental effects. Scoping helps the Water Board identify the range of actions, alternatives, whether potentially significant environmental effects exist that need to be mitigated, and if so, what mitigation measures could be taken to reduce impacts.

Staff Contact: Kevin Lunde at (510) 622-2431 or Kevin.Lunde@waterboards.ca.gov

WRITTEN COMMENTS

A comment period is established to receive written CEQA scoping comments. The Water Board will accept written comments on the scope of analysis contained in the SED and the potential environmental impacts resulting from the project. Written comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. August 6, 2026, to be considered. The Regional Water Board will consider all written comments during the preparation of the SED. Please send all comments to:

Kevin.Lunde@waterboards.ca.gov or **1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, CA 94612, Attn.: Kevin Lunde**



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PROJECT VICINITY MAP

Map showing the location of Publicly Owned Treatment Works in the Nutrients Watershed Permit within the boundary of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board.