
State Water Resources Control Board

March 22, 2024

All Parties and Interested Persons:

NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR DRAFT ORDER DENYING UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION'S PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF ORDER WR 2019-0148

On March 8, 2024, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) released (1) a draft order denying the United States Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) petition for reconsideration of Order WR 2019-0148 and (2) a notice of opportunity to comment on the draft reconsideration order. The notice set 12:00 noon on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, as the deadline for submission of written public comments.

On March 15, 2024, Reclamation submitted a letter requesting a 60-day extension of the written comment period. (Although the deadline would be June 3, 2024, if the comment period were extended by 60 days, Reclamation also stated that the deadline would be extended to May 8, 2024, if its request were granted.) In its letter, Reclamation cited the need to refamiliarize itself with the proceeding's record and the legal arguments at issue, given the length of time between submission of the petition for reconsideration and the release of the State Water Board's draft order. That same day, the Environmental Defense Center (EDC), writing on behalf of California Trout, submitted a letter opposing Reclamation's extension request. In its letter, EDC highlighted the limited scope of the subject matter addressed in the draft reconsideration order and expressed concern that additional delays could further jeopardize the state's public trust resources. On March 20, 2024, and March 21, 2024, the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 (SYRWCD ID No. 1) and Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD) submitted letters expressing support for Reclamation's 60-day extension request, citing the same need to refamiliarize themselves with the record.

Having considered Reclamation's extension request, support letters from SYRWCD ID No. 1 and SYRWCD, and EDC's opposition letter, the State Water Board hereby grants all parties and interested persons a 30-day extension of time. In order to be fully considered, comment letters pertaining to the draft order **must be received no later than 12:00 noon on Thursday, May 2, 2024**. Comment letters received after that deadline will not be accepted unless the State Water Board determines otherwise. Comment letters less than 15 megabytes should be submitted electronically (via e-mail) in PDF format to Courtney Tyler, Clerk to the Board, at

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. Letters may also be faxed to (916) 341-5620 or mailed/hand delivered to:

Courtney Tyler, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100,
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000 (mail)

or

1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814 (hand delivery)

Please include in the subject line: **“Comment Letter: Cachuma Project Reconsideration Order.”**

As previously noted, during the pendency of this proceeding, there shall be no *ex parte* communications regarding substantive or controversial procedural matters within the scope of the proceeding between State Water Board members and any other participants. (Gov. Code, §§ 11430.10-11430.80.)

Written comments must be served on the Service List of Parties to Exchange Information in this proceeding as indicated therein. Comments that do not include proof of service upon the service list will not be reviewed until the State Water Board has notified the parties. The Service List is available at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/hearings/cachuma/docs/currentservicelist.pdf

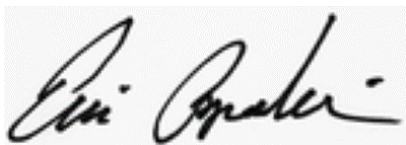
Having granted this extension, the State Water Board currently anticipates considering adoption of the draft order at its Board meeting tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, June 18, 2024.**

Additional information regarding this matter is available at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/hearings/cachuma/

Please direct any noncontroversial procedural questions about this notice to Penn Scoble via email at penn.scoble@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Eric Oppenheimer
Executive Director