NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING, CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, AND PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

PROPOSED FINAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CALIFORNIA OCEAN PLAN AND INLAND SURFACE WATERS, ENCLOSED BAYS, AND ESTUARIES OF CALIFORNIA PLAN TO INCLUDE THE STATEWIDE WETLAND DEFINITION AND PROCEDURES FOR DISCHARGES OF DREDGED OR FILL MATERIAL TO WATERS OF THE STATE (FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE WETLANDS POLICY)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will hold a public meeting to consider adoption of the Proposed Final Amendments to both the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California (Ocean Plan), and the forthcoming Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California (ISWEBE Plan) to include the State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State (Proposed Amendments), and the Proposed Final Staff Report including the Draft Substitute Environmental Documentation (Proposed Final Staff Report).

Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:30 a.m.
Joe Serna Jr. - CalEPA Headquarters Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN that the Proposed Amendments, a Proposed Final Staff Report, and responses to earlier written comments are available for public review and reflect revisions based on public comments received during the public comment periods held June 17 – August 18, 2016, and July 21 – September 18, 2017. In addition, State Water Board staff will hold a staff public workshop and a State Water Board workshop to provide information and answer questions on the Proposed Amendments, Proposed Final Staff Report, and Response to Comments. A quorum of State Water Board members may be present during the public workshops; however, no Board action will be taken during the workshops.

Staff Workshop
January 9, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
Board Meeting Room
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92108

State Water Board Workshop
January 22, 2019, 9:30 a.m.
Joe Serna Jr. - CalEPA Headquarters Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

BACKGROUND
The State Water Board is considering adopting amendments to the Ocean Plan and the forthcoming ISWEBE Plan to include the State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State (Proposed Amendments). The Proposed Amendments consist of the following components: (1) a wetland definition; (2) a framework for determining if a feature that meets the wetland definition is a water of the state; (3) wetland delineation procedures; and (4) procedures for application submittal, and the review and approval of Water Quality Certifications, Waste Discharge Requirements, and waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements for the discharge of dredge or fill material. The Proposed Amendments would not apply to suction dredge mining activities for mineral recovery.

The State Water Board developed the Proposed Amendments to address several important issues. First, there is a need to strengthen protections for waters of the state that are no longer protected under the Clean Water Act (CWA) due to past U.S. Supreme Court decisions. Second, there is inconsistency across the Water Boards in regulating discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the state, including wetlands. Third, current regulations have not been adequate to prevent losses in the quality and quantity of wetlands in California.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILIITY
The Proposed Amendments and related documents and information are available on the State Water Board's web site at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/wrapp.shtml.

You may request a paper copy of the Proposed Amendments by contacting Ana Maria Saenz at (916) 341-5480 or AnaMaria.Saenz@waterboards.ca.gov.

Additional information on the February 5, 2019, Board Meeting in Sacramento can be found at the State Water Board's web site at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar/.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS
At the February 5, 2019, Board Meeting there will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants. However, the State Water Board and its staff may ask clarifying questions. To ensure a productive and efficient hearing in which all participants have an opportunity to participate, oral presentations may be time-limited. Presentation recommendations can be found at the State Water Board's web site at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/meetings/board_presentations.shtml

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY
Joe Serna, Jr. (CalEPA) Building
For directions to the Joe Serna, Jr. (CalEPA) Building and public parking information, please refer to the map on the State Water Board Web site: http://www.calepa.ca.gov/headquarters-sacramento/location/.

The CalEPA Building is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to call (916) 341-5254 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922. An audio broadcast of the meeting will be available via the internet and can be accessed at: https://video.calepa.ca.gov/.

All visitors to the CalEPA Building are required to sign in and obtain a badge at the Visitor Services Center located just inside the main entrance (10th Street entrance). Valid picture identification may be required. Please allow up to 15 minutes for receiving security clearance.

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Office
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board is also accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who have special accommodation or language needs, please contact Ms. Chris Blank at (619) 521-3382 or Christina.Blank@waterboards.ca.gov at least 5 working days prior to the staff workshop. TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may dial 7-1-1 for the California Relay Service.

For directions to San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board's building and parking information, please refer to the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board's web site: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/about_us/contact_us/.

FUTURE NOTICES
The State Water Board will hold the informal staff public workshops and public meeting at the time and place noted above. Any change in the date, time, and place of the informal staff public workshops and Board Meeting will be noticed through the Lyris e-mail distribution list. Any person desiring to receive future notices concerning the Proposed Amendments, including any changes to the notice of public meeting and consideration of adoption, must sign up for the Lyris e-mail distribution list. To sign up for the Lyris distribution email list, access the E-mail List Subscription form, select the box for 'Wetland and Riparian Area Protection Policy' (located within the section entitled 'Water Quality Topics'), and provide the required information. The subscription form is located at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Questions regarding this notice may be directed to Ana Maria Saenz at (916) 341-5480 (AnaMaria.Saenz@waterboards.ca.gov) or Beth Payne at (916) 341-5579 (Elizabeth.Payne@waterboards.ca.gov).

January 3, 2019
Date

Jeanine Townsend
Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board