THIS NOTICE SUPERSEDES THE JANUARY 25, 2019 NOTICE FOR THIS ITEM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND PUBLIC MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, AND AVAILABILITY OF ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION

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 workshop on March 5, 2019, and a public meeting on April 2, 2019 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). The State Water Board will not take any action on March 5, 2019, but may provide direction to staff regarding the Proposed Amendments. The State Water Board may consider adopting the Proposed Amendments, with or without additional revisions, on April 2, 2019.

Board Workshop
Tuesday March 5, 2019, 9:30 am
Joe Serna Jr. - CalEPA Headquarters Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Board Meeting
Tuesday April 2, 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 two documents will be released for public review no later than February 22, 2019 in preparation for the State Water Board workshop on March 5, 2019. The first document is a revised Proposed Amendments (also referred to as the Procedures) that includes proposed clarifying language that has been added since the version of the Proposed Amendments that was circulated on January 3, 2019. The second document identifies major policy concerns that have been identified by stakeholders since January 3, 2019, and includes revisions to the Proposed Amendments that would address each policy concern for the State Water Board's consideration.

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. Any additional documents will be posted on this web site as soon as they become available.

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 March 5, 2019 Board Workshop and the April 2, 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

The State Water Board is not accepting additional written comments on the Proposed Amendments at this time. The State Water Board may, at its discretion, accept additional proposed revisions to the Proposed Amendments for its consideration. At the March 5, 2019 Board Workshop and the April 2, 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) 341-5261 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.

FUTURE NOTICES

The State Water Board will hold the workshop and meeting at the time and place noted above. Any change in the date, time, and place of the workshop and 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).

February 15, 2019
Date

Jeanine Townsend
Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board