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## State Water Resources Control Board

### UPDATED NOTICE OF DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

#### **SECOND REVISED PROPOSED FINAL PART 3 OF THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR INLAND SURFACE WATERS, ENCLOSED BAYS, AND ESTUARIES OF CALIFORNIA—BACTERIA PROVISIONS AND A WATER QUALITY STANDARDS VARIANCE POLICY; AND SECOND REVISED PROPOSED FINAL AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR OCEAN WATERS OF CALIFORNIA—BACTERIA PROVISIONS AND A WATER QUALITY STANDARDS VARIANCE POLICY**

Notice was previously provided that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will hold a public meeting on August 7, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. to consider: (1) adoption of the Second Revised Proposed Final Part 3 of the Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California—Bacteria Provisions and a Water Quality Standards Variance Policy (Part 3 of the ISWEBE); and the Second Revised Proposed Final Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California—Bacteria Provisions and a Water Quality Standards Variance Policy (Ocean Plan Amendment) (Part 3 of the ISWEBE and the Ocean Plan Amendment are hereafter collectively referred to as the Bacteria Provisions), and (2) approval of the Second Revised Proposed Final Staff Report, Including Substitute Environmental Documentation, for the Bacteria Provisions (hereafter Staff Report).

#### **DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY**

The Bacteria Provisions, Staff Report, and other information were initially made available on the State Water Board's website on June 30, 2017. The Bacteria Provisions, Staff Report, and the responses to the previously submitted timely written comments have been revised subsequent to the last time they were distributed to the public. **The revised documents are available now** on the State Water Board's website at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bacterialobjectives/>.

#### **THE BACTERIA PROVISIONS**

The Bacteria Provisions, if adopted, would apply to fresh, estuarine, and ocean waters and establish updated bacteria water quality objectives for the protection of the primary contact recreation (REC-1) beneficial use based on a risk protection level of 32 illnesses per 1,000 recreators. The Bacteria Provisions would establish: *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) as the sole indicator of pathogens in freshwater; enterococci as the sole indicator for saline inland surface waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries; and enterococci as an indicator in ocean waters. Unlike the previously distributed documents, the Ocean Plan Amendment would retain the fecal coliform objective contained in the existing Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California because California-specific epidemiological studies provide data that suggest fecal coliform may be a better indicator of gastrointestinal illness than enterococci during certain

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

types of exposure and environmental conditions. The Water Board will consider evaluating the fecal coliform water quality objective at a later date. The Bacteria Provisions would supersede numeric, but not narrative, water quality objectives for bacteria for the REC-1 beneficial use in the water quality control plans established by the Regional Water Quality Control Boards prior to the effective date of the Bacteria Provisions.

The Bacteria Provisions would also establish implementation approaches for bacteria control including reference beach and natural source exclusion approaches that may only be applied within the context of a total maximum daily load. Additionally, Part 3 of the ISWEBE (and not the Ocean Plan Amendment) describes implementation approaches that could be utilized to reflect the attainability of REC-1 beneficial use designations, including a temporary high-flow suspension and a seasonal suspension of the REC-1 beneficial use, a definition for the limited water contact recreation (LREC-1) beneficial use, and the designation of the LREC-1 beneficial use.

The Bacteria Provisions also identify an existing mechanism under 40 Code of Federal Regulations section 131.14 for adopting water quality standards variances for any pollutant, not only bacteria.

## **PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

The State Water Board is not accepting written comments to the revised documents. Interested persons will have an opportunity to comment orally on the Bacteria Provisions and Staff Report at the August 7, 2018 public meeting.

To ensure a productive and efficient meeting in which all participants have an opportunity to participate, oral presentations may be time-limited. For other presentation recommendations go to: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_info/meetings/board\\_presentations.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/meetings/board_presentations.shtml).

## **WEBCAST INFORMATION**

Video and audio broadcasts of the public meeting will be available via the internet and can be accessed at: <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/>.

## **PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY**

For directions to the Joe Serna, Jr. (CalEPA) Building and public parking information, please refer to the map on the State Water Board website: <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.

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 (10<sup>th</sup> Street entrance). Valid picture identification may be required. Please allow up to 15 minutes for receiving security clearance.

## FUTURE NOTICE

The State Water Board public meeting will be at the time and place noted above. Any change in the date, time, and place of the public meeting will be posted on the webpage:


<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bacterialobjectives/>. Any change will also be noticed on the e-mail list serve. Any person desiring to receive future notices concerning the Bacteria Provisions, including any changes to the notice of public meeting, must sign up for the e-mail list serve. To sign up for the e-mail list serve, access the email List Subscription Form at the web address listed below, at the "Water Quality" tab, by checking either the box for "Freshwater Plans and Policies" or the box for "California Ocean Plan (COP)":

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/swrcb\\_subscribe.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct questions about this notice to Lori Webber at (916) 341-5736 or via email at [Lori.Webber@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Lori.Webber@waterboards.ca.gov).

July 6, 2018  
Date

  
Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board