

State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

PROPOSED STANDARDIZED METHODS FOR TESTING AND A TESTING AND REPORTING PLAN FOR MICROPLASTICS IN DRINKING WATER

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will receive public comments on standardized analytical methods for monitoring microplastics in Drinking Water (hereafter Methods) and four-year plan for testing and reporting microplastics in drinking water (hereafter Plan). Written comments must be received by **12:00 noon on Wednesday, December 22, 2021**.

NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Board will hold a workshop at the time and place described below to receive information and solicit public input regarding the draft Methods and Plan. This is an informal stakeholder meeting where a quorum of the State Water Board may be present, but the Board will take no formal action. The workshop will begin with a staff presentation summarizing the draft Methods and Plan, followed by an opportunity for oral and written public comments. State Water Board staff will answer questions related to the draft Methods and Plan.

State Water Board Workshop

Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

Video and Teleconference Only

(This meeting will occur in remote presence only as a result of the COVID-19 emergency and as authorized by Government Code 11133)

Video Broadcast: <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/>

Additional information about participating telephonically or via the remote meeting solution will be available at least 10 days before the hearing at the [Remote Meeting page \(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/remote_meeting/\)](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/remote_meeting/). This public meeting is currently scheduled to take place via video and teleconference only, but the format may be changed in the future to also allow for in-person attendance. Any person desiring to receive future notices about changes to the date, time, location, or format of the public hearing should sign up for the Lyris e-mail list, as described below.

BACKGROUND

The California Safe Drinking Water Act requires the State Water Board to administer provisions relating to the regulation of drinking water to protect public health, including, but not limited to, conducting research, studies, and demonstration programs relating to

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

the provision of a dependable, safe supply of drinking water, enforcing the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, adopting and implementing regulations, and conducting studies and investigations to assess the quality of water in domestic water supplies. Under the act, implementing regulations are required to include, but are not limited to, monitoring of contaminants and requirements for notifying the public of the quality of water delivered to customers.

In 2018, Senate Bill 1422 added section 116376 to the Health and Safety Code, requiring the State Water Board, on or before July 1, 2020, to adopt a definition of microplastics in drinking water. Section 116376 further requires the State Water Board no later than July 1, 2021, to (1) adopt a standard methodology to be used in the testing of drinking water for microplastics; (2) adopt requirements for four years of testing and reporting of microplastics in drinking water, including public disclosure of those results; (3) if appropriate, consider issuing a notification level or other guidance to aid consumer interpretations of the results of the testing required pursuant to this section; and (4) accredit qualified laboratories in California to analyze microplastics. This statute permits the State Water Board to implement this section through the adoption of a policy handbook that is not subject to the regular rulemaking requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act.

The State Water Board has contracted with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project to conduct an interlaboratory validation of analytical methods for monitoring microplastics in drinking water, convene an expert workshop to develop guidance to aid consumer interpretation of monitoring results, and provide training for ELAP staff and third-party laboratory assessors to accredit qualified laboratories to analyze microplastics.

Two methods were validated through the inter-laboratory comparison study involving twenty-two laboratories. Participating laboratories collaborated with State Water Board staff to determine best practices and develop accreditation criteria for laboratories. On September 28, 2021, copies of the standardized methods for extraction and analysis of microplastics in drinking water developed by SCCWRP were posted on the State Water Board website (www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/microplastics.html). The proposed standardized analytical method is undergoing external peer review as required by Health and Safety Code section 57004.

Staff intend to present the Methods and Plan to the State Water Board for consideration of adoption at the Board's February 15, 2022 meeting.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The proposed Methods and Plan and related documents and information are available on the State Water Board's internet web site at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/microplastics.html. You may request a paper copy of the documents by contacting Scott Coffin at Scott.Coffin@waterboards.ca.gov.

The workshop agenda will be available at least 10 days before the workshop at the State Water Board calendar page (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar/).

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

Any interested person, or their representative, may submit written comments relevant to the proposed Methods and Plan to the Clerk to the State Water Board. Any written comments pertaining to this Methods and Plan, regardless of the method of transmittal, must be received by the Clerk to the State Water Board no later than **12:00 p.m. (noon) on Wednesday, December 22, 2021**, and addressed to:

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000 (mail)
1001 I Street, 24th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 (hand delivery)

Please indicate in the subject line: **“Comment Letter – Microplastics in Drinking Water Methods and Plan.”**

Comments may be submitted electronically (e-mail), by facsimile, U.S. Mail, or courier as described below. Oral comments will be accepted at the November 17, 2021 workshop. Comment letters may be submitted electronically, in PDF text format if less than 15 megabytes in total size, to the Clerk to the Board via e-mail at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. If the file is greater than 15 megabytes in total size, submit the comments by fax at (916) 341-5620; address the fax to “Clerk to the Board.” U.S. Mail must be received (not postmarked) at the State Water Board offices by the close of the comment period.

Note: Due to COVID-19, all persons hand delivering submittals must first schedule an appointment with staff by contacting Scott.Coffin@waterboards.ca.gov. All hand delivered submittals must arrive and be dated and time stamped prior to 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Wednesday, December 22, 2021.

The State Water Board requests but does not require that written comments sent by mail or hand-delivered be submitted in triplicate.

The State Water Board requests but does not require that, if reports or articles in excess of 25 pages are submitted in conjunction with the comments, the commentator provide a summary of the report or article and describe the reason for which the report or article is being submitted or is relevant to the proposed definition.

All comments, including email or fax transmissions, should include the author’s name and U.S. Postal Service mailing address in order for the State Water Board to provide copies of any notices for proposed changes to the regulation text on which additional comments may be solicited.

Please note that under the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code, §6250 et seq.), your written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g., your address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the public record and can be released to the public upon request.

WEBCAST INFORMATION

Live video and audio broadcasts of the public workshop and consideration of adoption meeting, for attendees that are solely interested in watching and not participating, will be available via the internet and can be accessed at the [CalEPA Public Meeting Live Webcasts page](https://video.calepa.ca.gov) (<https://video.calepa.ca.gov>).

ACCESSIBILITY

Telecommunications Device for the Hearing Impaired (TDD) users may contact the California RelayService at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922. A broadcast of the hearing will be available via internet and can be accessed at <https://video.calepa.ca.gov>.

FUTURE NOTICES


The State Water Board will hold the public workshop at the time noted above. Any change in the date, time, and place of the workshop or Board meeting will be noticed through the e-mail distribution list. Any person desiring to receive future notices concerning the draft Methods and Plan, including any changes to the notice of public meeting and consideration of adoption, must sign up for the e-mail distribution list. To sign up for the distribution email list, access the E-mail List Subscription form, select the box for 'Drinking Water Program Announcements' (located within the section entitled 'Drinking Water'), and provide the required information. The subscription form is located at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please direct questions regarding this notice to Scott Coffin, Ph.D. at Scott.Coffin@waterboards.ca.gov

October 26, 2021
Date



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board