
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

PROPOSED STATEWIDE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS GENERAL ORDER REISSUANCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will receive public written comments on the proposed Statewide Sanitary Sewer Systems Waste Discharge Requirements General Order.

NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN that State Water Board staff will hold two public workshops to provide further information regarding the proposed General Order reissuance on:

Wednesday, February 23, 2022 – 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

and

Thursday, February 24, 2022 – 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

No Physical Meeting Location

The staff workshops will be conducted through video and teleconference only. Information for participating in the staff workshops is provided on the [State Water Board Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reduction Program page](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ssol/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ssol/).

A quorum of the State Water Board may be present at the staff workshops; however, there will be no State Water Board action taken at these workshops.

NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Board will hold a public Board workshop to receive public comments on the proposed General Order reissuance on:

State Water Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 15, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.
Via Video and Teleconference Only

No Physical Meeting Location

(As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and as authorized by Government Code section 11133 and [Exec Order N-1-22](#), this meeting will occur solely via remote presence.)

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

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

A quorum of the State Water Board will be present at the Board workshop; however, there will be no State Water Board action taken at the Board workshop.

Additional information about participating telephonically or via the remote meeting will be available at least 10 days before the Board workshop at the [Remote Meeting page](#). This Board workshop is currently scheduled to take place via video and teleconference only; the workshop 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 Board workshop should sign up for the Lyris e-mail list, as described below. Additional information regarding the Board workshop can be found at the [State Water Board's web site](#).

BACKGROUND

In 2006, the State Water Board adopted the existing statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for consistent statewide regulation of publicly owned sewer systems. Through the existing General Order, the State Water Board regulates sewage spills and local system management of approximately 1100 publicly owned sewer systems, totaling greater than 100,000 miles of pipelines. The General Order requires public agencies to report sewer spills, develop a Sewer System Management Plan, and conduct internal sewer program audits. The Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) enforce the General Order with the assistance from the State Water Board, Office of Enforcement.

The proposed General Order reissuance:

- Updates State Water Board findings per regulatory priorities established through regulations and resolutions adopted since the 2006 adoption of the existing Order;
- Expands the scope of General Order coverage to allow discretionary regulation of privately-owned sewer systems if required by a Regional Water Board;
- Clarifies that the sewage spill prohibitions include sewage spills to waters of the State (surface waters and groundwater);
- Addresses cost of compliance by reducing frequency of Sewer System Management Plan updates and internal audits, and by consolidating reporting of spills to waters that are not waters of the U.S.;
- Clarifies existing federal and state regulations to enhance enforceability of General Order requirements;
- Enhances existing requirement for Enrollees to conduct system condition assessments, with additional requirements to report exfiltration and prioritize remediation;
- Emphasizes the need for "sewer system resilience" by requiring the Enrollee to prioritize rehabilitation and repair of system-specific high-risk system areas;
- Maximizes electronic reporting for increased transparency and efficient use of Water Board staff resources;
- Requires Enrollee submittal of electronic sewer system service area boundary map to facilitate future decision making on sewer system-related regulations and projects;
- Incentivizes operator certification and improved system performance through reduced public reporting for less than 50-gallon spills.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The documents for the proposed General Order reissuance and corresponding information are available on the [State Water Board Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reduction Program page](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ssol/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ssol/).

BOARD WORKSHOP PROCEDURAL MATTERS

At the Board workshop, there will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants. However, the State Water Board and its staff may ask clarifying questions. At the workshop, participants will have an opportunity to summarize their concerns through oral presentations. To ensure a productive and efficient workshop in which all participants have an opportunity to participate, oral presentations may be time limited. Participants planning to use a Power Point presentation must submit the file electronically, in .ppt. format, to the Clerk via email at

commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov, no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) on **Thursday, March 10, 2022**. Please indicate in the subject line “**Power Point Presentation – Proposed Sanitary Sewer Systems General Order Board Workshop.**”

Presentation recommendations are available at the [State Water Board presentations page](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/meetings/board_presentations.shtml) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/meetings/board_presentations.shtml).

The State Water Board will schedule a meeting subsequent to the Board workshop at which the Board will consider adoption of the proposed General Order reissuance. At that time, the State Water Board will solicit comments on any significant changes to the proposed final General Order reissuance but will not accept additional evidence.

BOARD WORKSHOP WEBCAST INFORMATION

Live video and audio broadcasts of the Board workshop 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/>). The Board workshop will be recorded.

SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

The State Water Board will accept both written and oral comments and evidence regarding this item. Oral comments must be made at the Board workshop. Written comment letters must be received no later than **12:00 p.m. (noon) on Friday, April 8, 2022**. Written comment letters must be 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)

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, then the comment letter may be submitted by fax at (916) 341-5620. Please indicate in the subject line: “**Comment Letter – Draft Sanitary Sewer Systems General Order Reissuance.**”

Couriers delivering hard copies of comment letters must check in with lobby security personnel and request to contact Jeanine Townsend at (916) 341-5600.

The State Water Board will not accept additional written comments after the public comment deadline.

EX PARTE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPOSED GENERAL ORDERS

This item is subject to the ex parte communication disclosure requirements of Water Code section 13287, as explained in a Memo from the Office of the Chief Counsel (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/docs/exparte.pdf). Any communications between interested persons and Board Members (other than at a noticed Board Meeting or submitted as a comment letter in compliance with the public notice) must be disclosed by the interested person within seven days of the communication. A sample disclosure form is available on the SWRCB General Order Disclosure Form (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/docs/ExParteGeneralOrderForm.pdf)

FUTURE NOTICES

Any person desiring to receive future notices concerning the proposed General Order reissuance including any changes to this public notice, must sign up for the Lyris e-mail list as follows: (1) access the email List Subscription Form at the web address listed below, (2) click the "Water Quality" tab, (3) check the box for "Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Reduction Program Order Review", (4) fill in the required information, and (5) click "Subscribe." The subscription form is located on the [State Water Board email subscription page](#) (www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml).

JOE SERNA JR. CALEPA (CALEPA) BUILDING PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

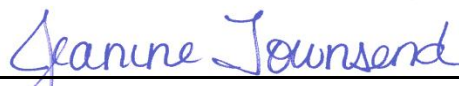
Hearing Impaired users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922. A broadcast of the Board workshop will be available via internet and can be accessed at <https://video.calepa.ca.gov>.

For more details about the Board workshop please go to:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar/index.shtml

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct questions about this notice or requests for a paper copy of the proposed General Order to Steve Cheung at (916) 341-5688 or Steve.Cheung@waterboards.ca.gov.

January 31, 2022
Date



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board