
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Access to Sanitation for People Experiencing Homelessness

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will hold a public workshop on Access to Sanitation for People Experiencing Homelessness. The workshop will include expert panels on data collection and metrics, public health challenges, innovative approaches by cities and NGOs, funding pathways, and roles for the Water Boards. The workshop is an opportunity for interested persons to provide input to the State Water Board. While a quorum of the State Water Board may be present, this will be an informational workshop only, and the State Water Board will take no formal action. The workshop will be:

Friday, April 19, 2019

9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Joe Serna Jr. - CalEPA Headquarters Building

1001 I Street

Byron Sher Auditorium, 2nd Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

BACKGROUND

The California Human Right to Water Law [AB 685 \(Eng, 2012\)](#) specifies that it is the “established policy of the state that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.” However, more than one hundred thousand Californians are homeless and do not have continuous access to drinking water and sanitation.

Access to Drinking Water and Sanitation is Unavailable to Many

The number of people experiencing homelessness in California now dramatically exceeds the existing emergency shelter capacity.¹ The US Department of Housing and Urban Development’s 2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress defines homelessness as either sheltered homelessness—those who have access to an emergency shelter, transitional housing program or a safe haven—or unsheltered homelessness, those whose primary nighttime resident is a public or private place not designated for regular sleeping accommodation (i.e. the street, vehicles, or parks).² Last year in California, the 2018 Annual

¹ See: https://www.law.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/FINAL_EJCW.ELC_Basic_UrgentReportonAccesstoWaterandSanitationbyHomelessCalifornians.8.8.18.docx.pdf, accessed April 2, 2019.

² See: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2018-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>, accessed April 2, 2019.

Homeless Assessment Report counted 129,972 homeless people on a single night in January. Of that, 40,429 were sheltered homeless persons who possibly had access to water during facility operating hours. The report also found more than 85,373 unsheltered homeless persons who possibly may not have access to water and sanitation.

Public Health Impacts

Multiple California counties experienced a hepatitis A outbreak amongst the homeless population from 2017 to 2018. The outbreak included 574 cases, 398 hospitalizations, and 20 deaths by the end of January 2018. On October 13, 2017, former Governor Brown declared a state of emergency to allow the state to increase its supply of hepatitis A vaccines in order to control the outbreak. The Executive Order³ required the California Department of Public Health to take all measures necessary to obtain hepatitis A vaccines, prioritize the vaccination of at-risk individuals in affected locations, and control and coordinate all drugs and medical supply stocks intended for wholesale distribution.⁴

Identifying Metrics to Provide Drinking Water and Sanitation Facilities

There is limited data measuring the number of public restrooms and plumbing fixtures, their hours of operation, their Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility compliance, their cleanliness, and their safety.⁵ The workshop will address data needs and collection.

REGISTRATION & AGENDA

Seating is limited, so please register for in-person attendance or webcast attendance. The agenda includes the topics and the time of the panel discussions. The registration list and agenda is available at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/assistance/.

PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP

The purpose of the workshop is to begin a conversation on access to sanitation that includes vulnerable populations like people experiencing homelessness. The workshop will provide information to the Board.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The workshop will be informational only. While a quorum of the State Water Board may be present, the State Water Board will not take formal action at the workshop. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants, but the State Water Board and its staff may ask clarifying questions. The workshop is an opportunity for interested persons to provide input to the State Water Board. To ensure a productive and efficient workshop, oral comments may be limited to three (3) minutes or otherwise limited at the discretion of the Board Chair or any Board member present. So that all commenters have an opportunity to participate, presentations and questions may be time-limited. Anyone who wishes to participate online though webcast will be in listen mode only and will not be able to submit comments or questions during the meeting.

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

For directions and public parking information, please refer to Travel to the CalEPA Headquarters Building website at: <https://calepa.ca.gov/headquarters-sacramento/location/>. The CalEPA Building is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special

³ See: <https://www.ca.gov/archive/gov39/2017/10/13/news20018/index.html>, accessed April 4, 2019.

⁴ See: <https://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2018-116.pdf>, accessed April 4, 2019.

⁵ See: <https://pacinst.org/publication/measuring-progress/>, accessed March 29, 2019.

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.

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. All visitors must check-in upon arrival to CalEPA and then proceed to the meeting room on the second floor. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact the Clerk to the Board at (916) 341-5600.

FUTURE NOTICES

Any change to the date and time will be noticed via the State Water Board's automated email list known as the Lyris. Any person who wishes to receive future notice updates concerning access to sanitation for homeless people should sign up on the automated e-mail list. To sign up, enter your name and email address at the bottom on the webpage:


https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/assistance/.

Please accept the Lyris confirmation in your inbox to complete the subscription.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct other questions about this notice to Mary Yang at (916) 322-6507 or mary.yang@waterboards.ca.gov.

April 9, 2019
Date



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board