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## State Water Resources Control Board

# NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION MEETING

## STATEWIDE GENERAL ORDER FOR DISCHARGES FROM HYDROSTATIC TESTING OF NATURAL GAS PIPELINES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will receive public comment on the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and the proposed Statewide General Order for Discharges from Hydrostatic Testing of Natural Gas Pipelines and Related Activities.

The State Water Board will hold a public hearing on:

**Tuesday, October 3, 2017– 9:30 a.m.**  
Joe Serna Jr. – CalEPA Headquarters Building  
Coastal Hearing Room  
1001 I Street, 2nd Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The State Water Board will consider approval of the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and adoption of the proposed General Order on:

**Tuesday, December 5, 2017 – 9:30 a.m.**  
Joe Serna Jr. – CalEPA Headquarters Building  
Coastal Hearing Room  
1001 I Street, 2nd Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### BACKGROUND

Natural gas transmission and use are vital to California residents and the state economy. Natural gas companies and their contractors construct, operate, and maintain pipelines and appurtenances for the transmission and distribution of natural gas to industrial, commercial and residential customers. The companies conduct mandatory inspection and testing to ensure public health and safety. The proposed General Order will regulate discharges due to excavation, construction, testing, and repair activities that may pose a threat to beneficial uses of waters of the U.S., non-federal surface waters of the state, and groundwater. The proposed General Order does not authorize discharges from any facilities associated with fracking and fracking-related operations.

## **DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY**

The draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, proposed General Order, and related documents are available to view or download on the State Water Board website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/npdes/natural\\_gas/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/npdes/natural_gas/).

Interested persons may request a paper copy by contacting Erling Rockwell at (916) 341-5478 or [erling.rockwell@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:erling.rockwell@waterboards.ca.gov).

## **SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS**

The State Water Board will accept written comments on the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and the proposed General Order. Written comments must be received by **12:00 noon on October 10, 2017** and must be addressed to:

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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 email at [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov). Please indicate the subject line: **“Comment Letter – Draft Statewide General Order for Discharges from Hydrostatic Testing of Pipelines and Related Activities.”**

Persons delivering hard copies of comment letters must check in with lobby security personnel, who can contact Jeanine Townsend at (916) 341-5600.

## **PROCEDURAL MATTERS FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING**

This notice provides a 30-day public review period of the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and the proposed General Order. The public hearing scheduled above is within the public comment period to allow interested parties the opportunity to provide oral comments to the State Water Board in addition to written comments.

At the public hearing, participants will have an opportunity to present oral comments to the State Water Board. Oral presentations may be time-limited to ensure a productive and efficient hearing in which all participants have an opportunity to participate. Participants planning to use a PowerPoint presentation must submit the file electronically, in PPT format, to the Clerk via email at [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov), no later than **12:00 noon on September 28, 2017**. Please indicate in the subject line **“PowerPoint Presentation – Hearing for Draft General Order for Discharges from Hydrostatic Testing of Pipelines and Related Activities.”**

## **PROCEDURAL MATTERS FOR THE ADOPTION MEETING**

At the Board meeting to consider approval of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and the adoption of the proposed General Order, participants will be given an opportunity to summarize and supplement their written materials with oral presentations. No new evidence (e.g. photographs, data, testimony) may be submitted at the adoption meeting, and comments will be limited to changes made to the final draft documents as a result of comments received during the written comment period and October 3, 2017 hearing. 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) at the State Water Board's website.

### **EX PARTE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR PENDING GENERAL ORDERS**

This item is subject to the ex parte communication disclosure requirements of Water Code section 13287, as explained in [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws\\_regulations/docs/exparte.pdf](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. Sample disclosure forms are available at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws\\_regulations/docs/swrcb\\_godf\\_fillin.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/docs/swrcb_godf_fillin.pdf).

Beginning **Wednesday, November 21, 2017**, ex parte communications between interested persons and Board members concerning this item are prohibited.

### **FUTURE NOTICES**

Any person desiring to receive future public notices regarding the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and the proposed General Order, including any changes to this public notice, must subscribe to the Lyris list described below. To sign up for the Lyris list, access the E-mail List Subscription form at:

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

Enter your email address and full name in the required spaces. Under the Water Quality title bar, check the box for "Gas Utilities Statewide General NPDES Permit." Finally, click on the Subscribe button to the right of the location in which your email address and full name were entered.

### **PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY**

For directions to the CalEPA Building and public parking information, please refer to the map on the State Water Board web site at: <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) 341-5881 at least five working days prior to the meeting. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

An audio broadcast of the hearing and of the adoption 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.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Please direct questions about this notice to Erling Rockwell at (916) 341-5478 or [erling.rockwell@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:erling.rockwell@waterboards.ca.gov).

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August 25, 2017  
Date

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*Jeanine Townsend*  
Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board