

Review of the California Ocean Plan: Scoping Meeting

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CalEPA Building, Sacramento

Lark Starkey
State Water Resources Control Board

Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California (Ocean Plan)

- A regulatory document designed to protect the water quality of California's oceans
 - Beneficial Uses
 - Water Quality Objectives
 - Implementation Provisions



Purpose

- Review the Ocean Plan to identify and prioritize projects to guarantee the continued strength of water quality standards
- Identifies projects that modify or adopt new standards
- Keep pace with changes in regulation, new science, new technologies, policies, and changes along the coast



Scope

- Ocean Plan and Exceptions to the Ocean Plan
- Preparation of a list of projects (amendments or additions) to improve the Ocean Plan
- Not a review of other Water Quality Control Plans
 - Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries
 - Water Quality Control Policies
 - Regional Water Board Basin Plans



Background

- Federal law requires that ocean water quality standards be reviewed at least once every three years
- State law requires that ocean water quality standards be reviewed periodically



History of the Review of the Ocean Plan

- The Ocean Plan was first adopted in 1972 and most recently amended in 2015
- Last Review of the Ocean Plan in 2011
- Since 2011, the State Water Board adopted amendments to the Ocean Plan that address six high and very high priority issues identified in the previous 2011 Review of the Ocean Plan

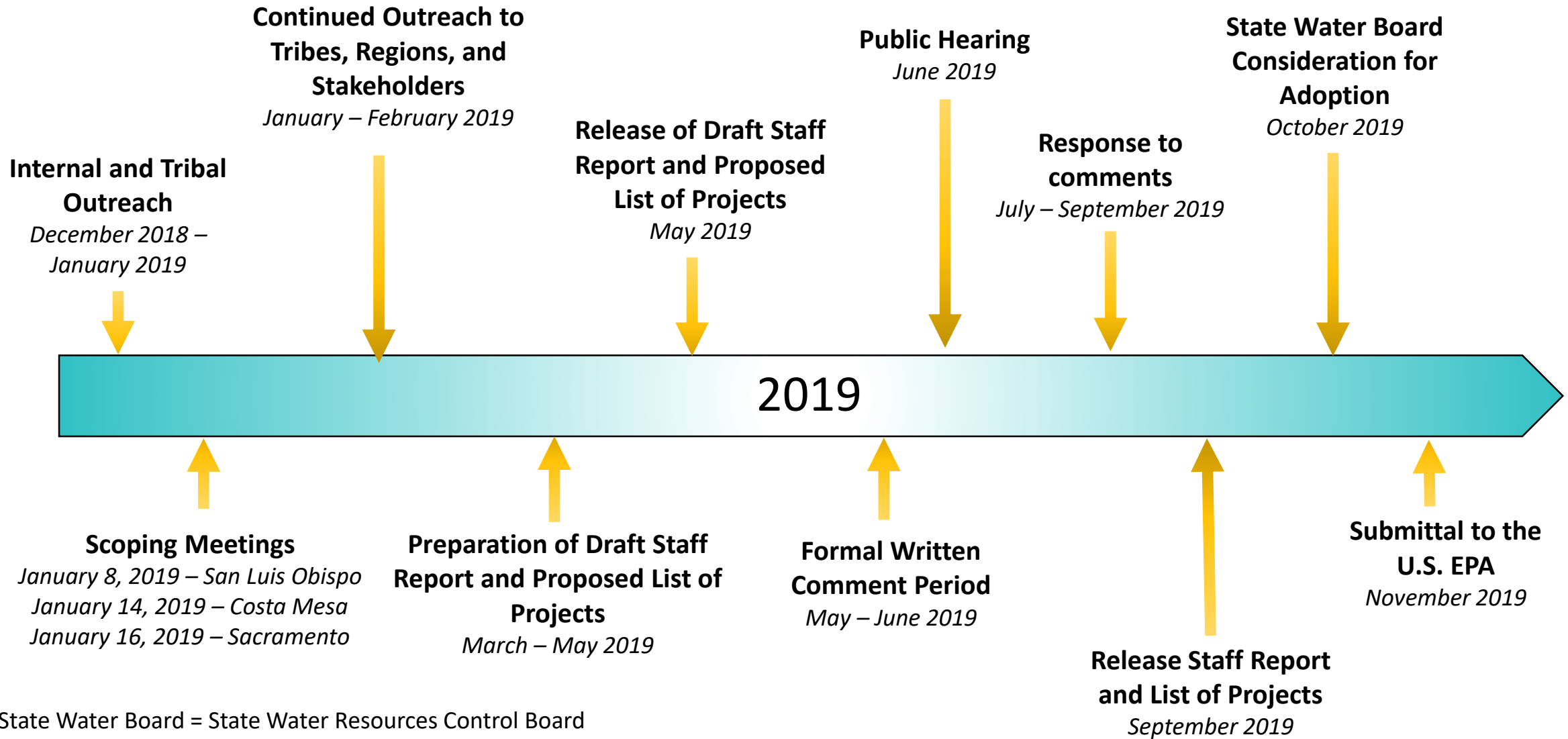


Major Accomplishments since the 2011 Review of the Ocean Plan

- State Water Quality Protection Areas and Marine Protected Areas Amendment (2012)
- Model Monitoring, Vessel Discharges and Non-Substantive Amendment (2012)
- Desalination Amendment (2015)
- Trash Amendments (2015)
- Bacteria Provisions (2018)



Review of the Ocean Plan Project Schedule



State Water Board = State Water Resources Control Board
U.S. EPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency

Purpose of the Scoping Meetings

- Share information
- Solicit informal comments
 - Projects to be included in the scope
 - Prioritization of projects



Proposed List of Projects: Organization

- P = Protection
 - Intended to make the Ocean Plan more protective of water quality and/or beneficial uses.
- R = Reasonableness
 - Intended to make the Ocean Plan more reasonable or attainable while being protective.
- H = Housekeeping
 - Mainly editorial in nature and are intended to make clarifications, updates, and corrections to the Ocean Plan where necessary. The H category also includes some obligatory Ocean Plan updates triggered by state or federal actions. H category changes have no regulatory effect and do not impose new requirements on the regulated community.



Examples of Issues

- Revise the toxicity water quality objective, statistical approach, and implementation provisions in the Ocean Plan to be consistent with the proposed amendment to the forthcoming ISWEBE Plan
- Review existing exceptions to the Ocean Plan
- Non-substantive changes for formatting, style, and consistency
- Establish shellfish harvesting beneficial uses and develop fecal coliform standards for shellfish harvesting



Meeting Ground Rules

- Raise your hand and clearly state your name and affiliation when asking questions/providing comments
- Remember this is an opportunity for us to gather information – a formal comment period will follow



Questions & Contacts

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