
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT DOCUMENTS AND NOTICE OF STAFF WORKSHOP, STATE WATER BOARD HEARING, AND ADOPTION MEETING

POLICY FOR SITING, DESIGN, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS (OWTS) – Septic Systems

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the State Water Board will receive comments and consider adoption of a draft State Policy for Water Quality Control for Siting, Design, Operation, and Management of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS Policy) and a draft Substitute Environmental Document (SED) at the location and times provided below. The adoption of policies for water quality control has been certified as an exempt regulatory program under the California Environmental Quality Act, so the State Water Board has prepared the SED to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed OWTS Policy.

A staff workshop, State Water Board Hearing, and Adoption Meeting are planned at the locations and times listed below to gather input from public agencies and interested persons on the content of the OWTS Policy and associated SED. Recipients of this notice are encouraged to inform others who are interested in OWTS issues about this notice.

STAFF WORKSHOP

The purpose of the staff workshop is for State Water Board staff to answer questions and receive oral comments from public agencies and members of the public on the OWTS Policy and SED. Although a quorum of the State Water Board may be present at the staff workshop, the State Water Board will not take any action during the staff workshop. The location and time of the staff workshop is provided below.

Staff Workshop

Wednesday, April 4, 2012 – 10:00 a.m.
Joe Serna Jr. - Cal/EPA Headquarters Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

STATE WATER BOARD HEARING

The purpose of the State Water Board Hearing is for the State Water Board to receive oral comments and evidence from public agencies and members of the public on the OWTS Policy and SED. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants, but the State Water Board and its staff may ask clarifying questions. Participants will be given an opportunity to give oral presentations to summarize and supplement the comments and written materials that they submit during the written comment period described below. To ensure a productive and efficient hearing in which all participants have an opportunity to participate, oral presentations may be time-limited. For other presentation recommendations, please go to: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/meetings/board_presentations.shtml at the State Water Board's Web site. The location and time of the State Water Board Hearing is provided below.

State Water Board Hearing

Wednesday, May 2, 2012 – 9:00 a.m.

Joe Serna Jr. - Cal/EPA Headquarters Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

STATE WATER BOARD ADOPTION MEETING

The purpose of the State Water Board Adoption Meeting is for the State Water Board to consider adoption of the OWTS Policy and SED. There will be a limited opportunity for oral comments addressing any further changes to the OWTS Policy and SED proposed by State Water Board staff in response to comments. No other comments or written materials will be accepted, unless specified otherwise by the State Water Board. The location and time of the State Water Board Adoption Meeting is provided below.

State Water Board Adoption Meeting

Tuesday, June 19, 2012 – 9:00 a.m.

Joe Serna Jr. - Cal/EPA Headquarters Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

BACKGROUND

In May 2011 the State Water Board held public scoping meetings on the SED to seek input on the range of project actions, alternatives, reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance, significant impacts to be analyzed, cumulative impacts, if any, and mitigation measures that will reduce impacts to a less than significant level; and to eliminate from detailed study issues found not to be important. On September 30, 2011 staff released a public draft of the OWTS Policy and SED for review and comment. In addition, staff held 8 public workshops at 4 locations around the state to hear comments and answer questions from public agencies and interested persons. Staff has revised the OWTS Policy and SED in response to public comment.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

The OWTS Policy and SED may be viewed and downloaded from the State Water Board's website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/owts/.

Paper copies or compact disc of the OWTS Policy and SED are available upon request by writing to OWTS Policy, Division of Water Quality, State Water Resources Control Board, P.O. Box 2231, Sacramento, CA 95812, or by calling (916) 445-9187 or by emailing your request to owts_commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov.

SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

The OWTS Policy and SED are being made available for a 45-day public review and comment period. The State Water Board will accept both written and oral comments on the proposed amendment. Oral comments must be made at the staff workshop or the State Water Board Hearing. After the written comment deadline, State Water Board staff will not accept additional written comments or materials on the draft documents. Written comments must be received by **12:00 noon on Friday May 4, 2012** and 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. 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 the subject line: "**Comment Letter – OWTS Policy**"

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

Email List Serve

Interested persons are encouraged to subscribe to an email list serve for future notices about the OWTS Policy at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml, under Water Quality Topics choose Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS)-Septic Systems. The email list serve will be the primary method for providing future notices related to the OWTS Policy and its implementation. Persons without access to email may request paper copies of future notices by mailing such request to the above address.

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

There is a parking garage across from the building with entrances on 10th and 11th Streets between "I" and "J" Streets, and metered parking spaces are in the vicinity of the building. For a map, see our Web site: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPABldg/location.htm>. Please note: All visitors to the Joe Serna Jr.-Cal/EPA Headquarters Building are required to sign in and receive a badge at the Visitor Services Center located inside the main entrance.


Valid picture identification may be required due to the security level. Please allow up to 15 minutes for receiving clearance before proceeding to the Coastal Hearing Room on the 2nd floor.

The Joe Serna Jr. - Cal/EPA Headquarters Building is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact Michele Villados at (916) 341-5881, at least five working days prior to the meeting date. Persons with hearing or speech impairments can contact us by using the California Relay Service Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD). TDD is reachable only from phones equipped with a TDD Device. HEARING IMPAIRED RELAY SERVICE: TDD to voice (800) 735-2929; voice to TDD (800) 735-2922.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct questions about this notice to Ms. Jeanie Mascia at (916) 323-2871 or email to jmascia@waterboards.ca.gov.

March 19, 2012
Date


Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board

Note: This notice was not posted on SWRCB's website until March 20, 2012.