
State Water Resources Control Board

Video and Teleconference Meeting During COVID-19 Emergency

These meetings will occur via remote presence only as a result of the COVID-19 emergency and the Governor's Executive Orders to protect public health by limiting public gatherings and requiring social distancing.

NOTICE OF MULTIPLE PUBLIC LISTENING SESSIONS

Racial Equity Listening Sessions

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), in coordination with the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards), will hold four public listening sessions to hear public input on how best to ensure the Water Boards' programs and policies preserve, protect and restore California's drinking water and water resources equitably for people of all races. This input will be used to guide the development of racial equity resolutions and action plans. A quorum of State and Regional Water Board members from any of the nine regional water boards may be present; however, no action will be taken. Space is limited to 50 participants for each listening session. **Advanced registration is required**; please register online at <https://bit.ly/32tpn13>.

Racial Equity Listening Session No. 1

**Monday, November 30, 2020
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. PST**

Racial Equity Listening Session No. 2

**Tuesday, December 1, 2020
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. PST**

Racial Equity Listening Session No. 3 (IN SPANISH LANGUAGE ONLY)

**Wednesday, December 2, 2020
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. PST**

Racial Equity Listening Session No. 4

**Thursday, December 3, 2020
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. PST**

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

PURPOSE & AGENDA

RACIAL EQUITY LISTENING SESSIONS

The Water Boards are hosting a series of four listening sessions to empower members of the public to share their perspectives and provide input on priorities for addressing racial inequities as they relate to the Water Boards and the programs we implement. The Water Boards will compile feedback from the community listening sessions, which will help inform the development of racial equity resolutions and action plans. The goal for the development of these resolutions and action plans is to ensure Water Boards priorities are advancing racial equity through our people, practices, and programs in ways that will be most beneficial to the communities we serve.

All four listening sessions will have the same agenda structure, presentation, and discussion questions. Participants will join small group discussions facilitated by Water Board staff. Guided discussion topics include, but are not limited to, community accounts and experiences of racial injustice or inequity, improving community access to our data, information and decision-making processes, capacity building, funding, and language access. Written notes from the discussions will be captured but will not be attributed to specific participants. To foster an environment of open and honest dialogue, the meetings will not be recorded and will not be publicly webcast. Space is limited to 50 participants for each listening session, and advanced registration is required.

AGENDA Items are numbered for identification purposes only.

1. Welcome and Overview of Water Boards Racial Equity Initiative
2. Facilitated Small Group Discussions on Racial Equity Topics
3. Comments, Suggestions, and Reflections from Participants

The agenda will be posted on board calendar: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar/#2020

BACKGROUND

The State Water Board and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (collectively Water Boards) are part of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and are responsible for protecting water quality and water resources for the people of California. The Water Boards acknowledge they have a critical role to ensure racial equity when implementing the Water Boards' mission: "To preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations."

The Water Boards are committed to advancing racial equity internally at the Water Boards and externally for the communities they serve. The Water Boards have established a Racial Equity Steering Committee and Racial Equity Working Group to address systemic, institutional, and individual racism at the Water Boards and to address racial inequities in the communities we serve. The Racial Equity Steering Committee and Working Group are developing a robust and inclusive Racial Equity Initiative that aims to ensure that all Water Boards programs and policies protect public health and the environment equitably, regardless of race.

PUBLIC COMMENT

These meetings are open to the public and will involve facilitated discussions with members of the public and an opportunity for open dialogue. Members of the public will be provided an opportunity to discuss agenda items via videoconference or telephonically. There is no need to submit public comments ahead of the meeting.

If you wish to provide feedback or comments regarding this topic but do not plan to, or are unable to, participate in the listening sessions, you may submit an email to the following: racialeguity@waterboards.ca.gov.

LANGUAGE SERVICES

Language interpretation can be provided for the listening sessions. The meeting on December 3rd will be held entirely in Spanish.

If you require interpretation for a language besides Spanish, or if you require sign language services, please contact Marina Pérez at (916) 322-4265 or marina.perez@waterboards.ca.gov at least 10 business days before the meeting.

ACCESSIBILITY

Telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at: (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

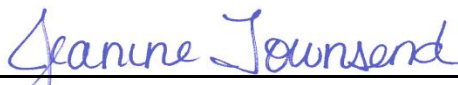
PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Due to ongoing circumstances related to the COVID-19 emergency, all public participation will be remote. These sessions will not be recorded or webcast. Questions and comments will be collected via the Zoom meeting platform.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions regarding this notice may be directed to racialeguity@waterboards.ca.gov.

November 18, 2020
Date



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board