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State Water Resources Control Board

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT,  
PUBLIC WORKSHOP, AND BOARD HEARING**

**PROPOSED DEFINITION OF  
MICROPLASTICS IN DRINKING WATER**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will receive public comments on the draft Definition of Microplastics in Drinking Water (hereafter Definition). Written comments must be received by **12:00 noon on Friday, April 24, 2020**. For additional information regarding submitting comments, please read below under “Submission of Written Comments.”

**NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN** that the State Water Board will hold a workshop at the time and place described below to receive information and solicit public input regarding the draft Definition. This is an informal stakeholder meeting where a quorum of the State Water Board may be present, but the Board will take no formal action. The workshop will begin with a staff presentation summarizing the draft Definition, followed by an opportunity for oral and written public comments. State Water Board staff will answer questions related to the draft Definition.

**Tuesday, April 7, 2020,  
(The workshop will not begin before 1:00 p.m.)  
State Water Board Workshop  
Video and Teleconference Meeting Only**

No Physical Meeting Location – See agenda for April 7, 2020 Board Meeting

**NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN** that the State Water Board will consider adopting a Definition of Microplastics in Drinking Water at its June 16, 2020 meeting, at the time and place described below.

**Tuesday, June 16, 2020, 9:30 a.m.  
State Water Board Meeting**  
California Environmental Protection Agency - Headquarters Building  
Coastal Hearing Room – Second Floor  
1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Both the workshop and the meeting will be recorded and will be webcast at <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/>.

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

## **BACKGROUND**

The California Safe Drinking Water Act requires the State Water Board to administer provisions relating to the regulation of drinking water to protect public health, including, but not limited to, conducting research, studies, and demonstration programs relating to the provision of a dependable, safe supply of drinking water, enforcing the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, adopting implementing regulations, and conducting studies and investigations to assess the quality of water in private domestic water supplies. Under the act, the implementing regulations are required to include, but are not limited to, monitoring of contaminants and requirements for notifying the public of the quality of the water delivered to customers.

In 2018, Senate Bill 1422 added section 116376 to the Health and Safety Code, requiring the State Water Board, on or before July 1, 2020, to adopt a definition of microplastics in drinking water. Section 116376 further requires the State Water Board no later than July 1, 2021, to (1) adopt a standard methodology to be used in the testing of drinking water for microplastics; (2) adopt requirements for four years of testing and reporting of microplastics in drinking water, including public disclosure of those results; (3) if appropriate, consider issuing a notification level or other guidance to aid consumer interpretations of the results of the testing required pursuant to this section; and (4) accredit qualified laboratories in California to analyze microplastics. This statute permits the State Water Board to implement this section through the adoption of a policy handbook that is not subject to the regular rulemaking requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act.

Staff intend to present a draft Definition of Microplastics in Drinking Water to the State Water Board for consideration at the Board's June 16, 2020 meeting.

## **DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY**

The draft Definition of Microplastics in Drinking Water and related documents and information are available on the State Water Board's internet web site at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/microplastics.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/microplastics.html).

You may request a paper copy of the draft Definition by contacting Scott Coffin, Ph.D. at (916) 323-0375 or [Scott.Coffin@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Scott.Coffin@waterboards.ca.gov).

Additional information on the June 16, 2020, Board Meeting in Sacramento can be found at the State Water Board's web site at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_info/calendar/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar/).

## **SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS**

Any interested person, or their representative, may submit written comments relevant to the proposed definition to the Clerk to the State Water Board. Any written comments pertaining to this definition, regardless of the method of transmittal, must be received by the Clerk to the State Water Board by **12 noon on Friday, April 24, 2020**. Comments received after this date will not be considered timely. Persons wishing to use the California Relay Service may do so at no cost by dialing 711.

Written comment letters may be submitted as follows:

1. By email to: [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov). The State Water Board requests but does not require that email transmission of comments, particularly those with attachments, contain the identifier “**Comment Letter – Microplastics in Drinking Water Definition**” in the subject line to facilitate timely identification and review of the comment. Comment letters sent electronically should be in pdf format and be less than 15 megabytes;
2. By fax transmission to: (916) 341-5620. The State Water Board requests but does not require that faxed comments contain the subject line “Comment Letter – Microplastics in Drinking Water Definition”;
3. By mail to: Clerk to the Board, Ms. Jeanine Townsend, State Water Resources Control Board, P.O. Box 997377, MS 7400, Sacramento, CA 95899-7377; or
4. Hand-delivered to: Clerk to the Board, Ms. Jeanine Townsend, State Water Resources Control Board, 1001 I Street, 24th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814.

The State Water Board requests but does not require that, if reports or articles in excess of 25 pages are submitted in conjunction with the comments, the commentator provide a summary of the report or article and describe the reason for which the report or article is being submitted or is relevant to the proposed definition.

All comments, including email or fax transmissions, should include the author’s name and U.S. Postal Service mailing address in order for the State Water Board to provide copies of any notices for proposed changes to the regulation text on which additional comments may be solicited.

Please note that under the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code, §6250 et seq.), your written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g., your address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the public record and can be released to the public upon request.

If you would like a copy of any or all of the written comments submitted on this subject, please send a request to [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov), identifying the subject listed above. Written comments will not be available until after the comment deadline.

### **PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

At the June 16, 2020 State Water Board Meeting, the Board will consider adoption of the draft Definition. Members of the public may present oral comments at the meeting. To ensure a productive and efficient Board meeting, the Board may limit the time for oral comments. Presentation recommendations can be found at the State Water Board’s internet web site at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_info/meetings/board\\_presentations.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/meetings/board_presentations.shtml)

## **PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY**

For directions to the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) Headquarters Building and public parking information, please refer to the map on the State Water Board Web site: <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) 341-5261 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. An audio broadcast of the 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.

## **NOTICE AND AGENDA**

The notice and additional information on the agenda are available at the State Water Board's microplastics in drinking water webpage: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/microplastics.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/microplastics.html)

## **FUTURE NOTICES**

The State Water Board will hold the public workshop and public meeting at the time and place noted above. Any change in the date, time, and place of the workshop or Board meeting will be noticed through the e-mail distribution list. Any person desiring to receive future notices concerning the draft Definition, including any changes to the notice of public meeting and consideration of adoption, must sign up for the e-mail distribution list. To sign up for the distribution email list, access the E-mail List Subscription form, select the box for 'Drinking Water Program Announcements' (located within the section entitled 'Drinking Water'), and provide the required information. The subscription form is located at:

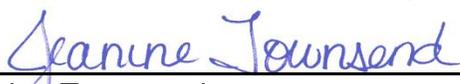
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/swrcb\\_subscribe.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please direct questions regarding this notice to:

Scott Coffin, Ph.D.  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 323-0375 or [Scott.Coffin@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Scott.Coffin@waterboards.ca.gov)

March 26, 2020  
Date

  
Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board