
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT OF 2024 REVIEW OF STATE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLANS AND STATE POLICIES FOR WATER QUALITY CONTROL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is commencing the 2024 Review of State Water Quality Control Plans and State Policies for Water Quality Control (2024 Review of State Plans and Policies). State water quality control plans and state policies for water quality control (State Plans and Policies) contain water quality standards and other provisions established by the State Water Board to preserve and enhance California's waters to safeguard human health, support aquatic ecosystems, improve the quality of water resources, and protect beneficial uses of waters. Triennial, or periodic, review is conducted pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.) and its implementing regulations, and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Wat. Code, § 13000 et seq.). (Refer to 33 U.S.C. § 1313(c)(1), 40 C.F.R. § 131.20(a), Wat. Code, §§ 13143, 13170, 13170.2, subd. (b), 13240.) For 2024, the State Water Board will be conducting its triennial review and its periodic reviews in a single combined proceeding. The purpose of the 2024 Review of State Plans and Policies is to engage with the public and interested persons to identify potential changes or additions that will help to guide the State Water Board's priorities for future amendments to the State Plans and Policies.

The preliminary list of State Plans and Policies that will be reviewed as part of this project includes the following:

State Water Quality Control Plans:

- Bay-Delta Plan
- California Ocean Plan
- California Thermal Plan
- Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Plan
- Components of the Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries Plan

State Policies for Water Quality Control:

- Antidegradation Policy
- Aquatic Toxicity Provisions
- Cannabis Policy
- Compliance Schedule Policy
- Consolidated Cleanup Plan
- Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Policy
- Guidance for Toxic Hot Spot Policy
- Impaired Waters Policy
- Instream Flows Policy
- Investigation and Cleanup and Abatement of Dischargers under Water Code Section 13304
- Listing Policy
- Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Closure Policy
- Municipal Solid Waste Policy
- Nonpoint Source Pollution Enforcement Policy
- Once-Through Cooling Water Policy for Coastal and Estuarine Waters
- Once-Through Cooling Water Policy for Inland Waters
- Pollutant Policy Document for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary
- Recycled Water Policy
- Sources of Drinking Water Policy
- State Implementation Policy
- State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Materials to Waters of the State
- Supplemental Environmental Projects Policy
- Water Reclamation Policy

In addition to reviewing these State Plans and Policies, the 2024 Review of State Plans and Policies will include consideration of the federally promulgated water quality standards for California (40 C.F.R. §§ 131.36, 131.37 and 131.38) and Clean Water Act section 304(a) recommended criteria.

The State Water Board will solicit initial public feedback through a public survey on potential changes or additions to State Plans and Policies, including federally promulgated water quality standards and recommended criteria. The initial public feedback will be used to help identify and prioritize potential changes or additions to State Plans and Policies, along with ongoing rulemaking projects, in an upcoming Draft Report and Work Plan for the 2024 Review of State Plans and Policies. A separate public notice describing the written comment period and public hearing will accompany the release of the Draft Report and Work Plan. Changes or additions may include, but will not be limited to, proposing new or revised existing beneficial uses and water quality objectives (referred to as “water quality standards” under the Clean Water Act) and programs of implementation.

The 2024 Review of State Plans and Policies is not a rulemaking, and it will not include the adoption of any of the proposed changes or additions to the State Plans and Policies. Changes and additions to the State Plans and Policies are subject to state and federal rulemaking requirements, including public participation. The State Water Board will provide a separate public notice when it initiates each future rulemaking project.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY AND KEY DATES

The State Plans and Policies listed above are available on the State Water Board's website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans_policies/. Information regarding federally promulgated water quality standards and Clean Water Act section 304(a) criteria will be made available at the time that the public survey is released.

The public survey, fact sheet, Draft Report and Work Plan, and public notice of written comment period and public hearing on the Draft Report and Workplan will be released by email to the email distribution list identified below and by posting on the State Water Board's website at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans_policies/.

When available, you may also request a paper copy of the Draft Report and Work Plan by emailing Beverly.Schornhorst@waterboards.ca.gov or calling (916) 323-0874.

The State Water Board's projected key dates and actions are listed below:

Fall 2024

Public Survey and Fact Sheet

Spring – Summer 2025

Draft Report and Work Plan
Public Comment Period and Public Hearing

Fall 2025

Board Consideration of Adoption Hearing
Final Report and Work Plan

FUTURE NOTICES AND STAYING INVOLVED

Relevant documents and information, including any changes to the information noticed above will be provided via a new State Water Board's email distribution list for the Review of State Plans and Policies. Any person desiring to receive future communications and notices via email must subscribe to the new listserv e-mail distribution list by accessing the following e-mail list subscription form:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml

To subscribe, select the 'Water Quality' tab, and check the box for 'Review of State Plans and Policies'.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct questions about this notice to Beverly Scharnhorst at (916) 323-0874 or Beverly.Scharnhorst@waterboards.ca.gov, or Kat Faick at (916) 445-2317 or Kat.Faick@waterboards.ca.gov.

Date August 15, 2024



Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board