



State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT SCOPING MEETING

PROPOSED URBAN STORMWATER INFILTRATION WATER QUALITY CONTROL POLICY

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. PDT

The meeting will be conducted virtually, via Zoom.

Link to register: <https://waterboards.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJErd-msrjMjGdJJ64d1KoFaj34ymiMEkuE>

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Quality (State Water Board) staff will conduct a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) public scoping meeting for the proposed urban stormwater infiltration water quality control policy (proposed policy) that will set statewide standards for urban stormwater infiltration. The purpose of the scoping meeting is to provide a forum for the public to provide input on the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the proposed draft Substitute Environmental Documentation (SED) prepared to support the proposed policy, in accordance with the State Water Board's CEQA certified regulatory program (see Public Resources Code section 21080.5). Scoping supports the identification of the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant environmental effects to be analyzed in the SED.

The meeting will consist of a presentation on the proposed policy development, and an opportunity for meeting participants to provide oral comments regarding the content of the draft SED.

The State Water Board will accept both written and oral comments regarding scoping elements. Submit written comments in accordance with the instructions below by **12:00 p.m. (noon) on Monday, March 31, 2025.**

Accessibility and Language Services

Any person who requires reasonable accommodation to participate in the meeting should email contact@waterboards.ca.gov or call (916) 341-5254 by February 26, 2025. Learn more about accessibility within Zoom at www.zoom.com/en/accessibility. Telecommunications Device for the Hearing Impaired (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

This meeting will be offered in English. To request translation of a written document, interpretation services for the meeting, or sign language services, please use one of the following options by February 26, 2025:

- Submit an online request: bit.ly/LanguageAccessForm
- Call (916) 341-5254
- Email languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov

Notice of Preparation

TO:

State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

FROM LEAD AGENCY:

State Water Resources Control Board
Attention: Kelly Rodman
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

SUBJECT: PROPOSED URBAN STORMWATER INFILTRATION WATER QUALITY CONTROL POLICY

State Water Board staff are developing a proposed water quality control policy (proposed policy) that will set statewide standards for stormwater infiltration in urban areas. Projects that capture and infiltrate stormwater can improve water supply resiliency, protect surface water quality, restore habitats, and improve parks and green spaces. Groundwater recharge via stormwater infiltration is a viable option for storing harvested stormwater long term, especially in the semi-arid climates occurring across California.

Ongoing severe statewide droughts have led policy makers to include stormwater as a critical water supply resource. For example, the Governor's 2022 California Water Supply Strategy sets a goal of capturing 500,000 acre-feet of stormwater per year by 2050. However, regional water quality control boards' (regional boards), cities', and counties' differing regulations for urban stormwater infiltration pose an obstacle to widescale implementation of urban stormwater capture and use.

The proposed policy will set clear, statewide requirements for stormwater infiltration in urban areas that will allow infiltration while protecting groundwater quality. This includes prohibiting infiltration under high-risk conditions where beneficial uses of groundwater may be impacted. Project proponents, including stormwater permittees, will be required to comply with applicable proposed policy requirements for new urban stormwater infiltration systems (e.g., infiltration galleries, infiltration trenches, dry wells, or stormwater retention ponds in urban areas).

The proposed policy scope currently includes the following components:

1. Decision-making framework and support tools for assessing infiltration conditions, including potential prohibitions to protect groundwater quality.
2. Minimum siting, design, operation, and maintenance requirements for new or expanded systems.
3. Requirements for existing infiltration systems.
4. Antidegradation analysis of the effects of stormwater infiltration on groundwater quality.

Submission of Comments

The State Water Board will accept both written and oral comments on the environmental information that should be included in the draft substitute environmental documentation. The scoping meeting will be conducted virtually, using online video and audio broadcast software. Agencies, organizations, the public, and other interested parties will be able to provide oral comments directly through the online meeting.

Written comments will be accepted until **Monday, March 31, 2025 by 12:00 p.m. (noon) PDT**. Comments can be submitted electronically to STORMS@waterboards.ca.gov.

Please include the subject line “CEQA Scoping Comment.” Comments can also be mailed to the address below:

State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Water Quality
Attention: Kelly Rodman
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100 (mail)
1001 I Street, 15th floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 (hand-delivered)

Future notices regarding this project will be circulated via the project email list. If you are not already a member of this list, please go to the [Urban Stormwater Infiltration Policy website](#), enter your email address and click “Submit.”

For further information about the project, please visit the Water Board's [Stormwater Strategy website](#) or contact Kelly Rodman at Kelly.Rodman@waterboards.ca.gov.

Date January 28, 2025



Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board