
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP FOR THE WATER BOARD'S RACIAL EQUITY RESOLUTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board and, together with the Regional Water Quality Control Boards, Water Boards) will receive public comments on the draft proposed Resolution Condemning Racism, Xenophobia, and Racial Injustice and Strengthening Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Access, Inclusion and Anti-Racism (Racial Equity Resolution). The draft proposed Racial Equity Resolution articulates the State Water Board's commitment to racial equity, expositis why this work is needed and offers a roadmap for how the State Water Board can (1) ensure its programs and policies preserve, protect, and restore California's water resources equitably for people of all races, and (2) create an equitable, diverse, and inclusive workplace where all employees feel they belong and their opportunities and professional outcomes are not predicted by their race.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The draft proposed Racial Equity Resolution will be posted on the State Water Board's website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/racial_equity/. You may request a paper copy of the draft proposed Racial Equity Resolution by emailing: racialequity@waterboards.ca.gov.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The State Water Board will accept written comments on the draft proposed Racial Equity Resolution. All written comments must be received no later than **12:00 noon on Monday, July 12, 2021**. Written comments may be submitted as follows:

1. By email to: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov with subject line: **"Comment Letter – Racial Equity Resolution."**;
2. By fax transmission to: (916) 341-5620;
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.

If you would like to request a copy of public comments submitted on this item, please send a request to commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov, identifying “Racial Equity Resolution” in your request.

NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Board will hold a public workshop to provide the public and stakeholders information regarding the draft proposed Racial Equity Resolution and solicit oral feedback to staff. A quorum of the State Water Board may be present at the public workshop; however, there will be no State Water Board action taken at the public workshop. The public workshop will be held on:

Wednesday, July 7, 2021, 4:00 p.m.
Video and Teleconference Only
No Physical Meeting Location

REMOTE PARTICIPATION & PROCEDURAL MATTERS

This meeting 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.

If you wish to watch the meeting: A webcast will be available at video.calepa.ca.gov and should be used UNLESS you intend to comment.

If you wish to provide oral comments on the draft proposed Racial Equity Resolution:

- Fill out a virtual speaker card using our [online form](#) before or on the day of the board meeting.
- The Clerk will respond to your form with the Zoom password for the meeting.
- Oral presentations should be limited to no more than 5 minutes.
- For more information, visit:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/remote_meeting/#provide_comments
- Should you have any questions or problems please send an email to:
commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov.

PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP AND BACKGROUND

The purpose of the workshop is to receive information and public comments to inform the State Water Board’s consideration of the proposed Racial Equity Resolution. In its August 18, 2020 meeting, the State Water Board directed staff to develop strategies and action plans that address institutional and systemic racism throughout the Water Boards and in the communities we serve. The Executive Director of the State Water Board established a Water Boards Racial Equity Steering Committee and Working Group (collectively Racial Equity Team) comprised of Water Boards employees. This

team of approximately 40 employees is tasked with shaping racial equity¹, diversity, and inclusion actions that permeate every part of the Water Boards, with specific short- and long-term action items informed by employee and public input.

Since November 2020, the Racial Equity Team has held four public listening sessions, in both English and Spanish, nine employee listening sessions facilitated by outside consultants with expertise in racial equity, diversity, and inclusion; and an all-staff webinar to update employees on progress. The Racial Equity Team used the feedback from these sessions and conducted additional research to develop the draft proposed Racial Equity Resolution, which is being released for public comment, and ultimately, for State Water Board consideration for adoption. The proposed Racial Equity Resolution encourages each of the Regional Water Quality Control Boards to create complementary Racial Equity Resolutions.

In addition to articulating the State Water Board's commitment to racial equity, the draft proposed Racial Equity Resolution discussed the need for the Water Boards to broadly incorporate a racial equity lens into its work and offers a roadmap for how the Water Boards can (1) ensure its programs and policies preserve, protect, and restore California's water resources equitably for people of all races, and (2) create an equitable, diverse, and inclusive workplace where all employees feel they belong and their opportunities and professional outcomes are not predicted by their race.

The draft proposed Racial Equity Resolution is informed by (1) a focused research effort by the Racial Equity Team on the intersection of water interests and historic, systemic racism, (2) insights and ideas gathered through listening sessions with the public and stakeholders and Water Boards' employees, and (3) the work of many other partners, including the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), CalEPA, and other governmental, non-governmental, and community based organizations. The draft proposed Racial Equity Resolution is an important step for the Water Boards, but sustained, informed actions will be needed for years to come. The draft proposed Racial Equity Resolution sets forth a foundation to guide our work as we embark on our next key milestones: drafting, approving, and implementing a racial equity action plan.

LANGUAGE ACCESS

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

¹ The Water Board is using the Government Alliance on Race and Equity definition of racial equity: when race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes and outcomes for all groups are improved. Equality and equity are sometimes used interchangeably, but actually convey significantly different ideas. Equity is about fairness, while equality is about sameness.

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.

POTENTIAL FUTURE CHANGES TO THE NOTICED ITEMS

The State Water Board intends to make the draft proposed Racial Equity Resolution available, provide an opportunity for public comment, and hold the public workshop at the times and place noted above. Any change to the items noticed above will be noticed through the below-identified list serve e-mail distribution lists, and on the State Water Board's webpages.

Any person desiring to receive future notices must subscribe to the list serve e-mail distribution lists by accessing the following E-mail List Subscription form:

For the Racial Equity Initiative, select the box for "Racial Equity Initiative" (located within the section entitled 'General Interest'), and providing the required information. The subscription form is located at:

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct questions regarding this notice, the public workshop, or the draft proposed Racial Equity Resolution to the Racial Equity Team at racialequity@waterboards.ca.gov.

June 24, 2021
Date



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board