
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT
AND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

**PROPOSED BASIN PLAN AMENDMENT
TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SAN DIEGO BASIN
TO ESTABLISH BIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR
PERENNIAL AND SEASONAL STREAMS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) is releasing, for public review and comment, a proposed amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (Basin Plan) to incorporate biological objectives, and the draft Staff Report, including the draft Substitute Environmental Document. The San Diego Water Board will consider all timely-received public comments prior considering adoption at a future public Board hearing.

Public Workshop

The San Diego Water Board staff will host a public workshop to provide information and receive public input on the proposed Basin Plan amendment, Staff Report, and Substitute Environmental Document. A quorum of San Diego Water Board Members may be present at the workshop, however no Board action will be taken.

At the workshop, staff will give an overview of the proposed Basin Plan amendment and associated draft documents, as well as receive your comments and questions. The San Diego Water Board will commence the public workshop at the following time and location:

**April 18, 2019, 1:00 P.M
San Diego Water Board, Board Meeting Room
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100; San Diego, California 92108**

A meeting agenda will be posted prior to the workshop on the San Diego Water Board website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/bio_objectives/

To receive the agenda and future updates via e-mail, please subscribe to the "**Biological Objectives for the San Diego Region**" email list on our Email Subscriptions web page:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg9_subscribe.shtml

Direction and Parking

For directions to the San Diego Water Board, please refer to:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/about_us/contact_us/

Two-hour free parking is available on a first-come first-serve basis, and long-term fee parking is available in an adjacent parking structure.

Accessibility

The facility is accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who have special accommodation or language needs, please contact Ms. Chris Blank by phone at (619) 521-3382 or by email at cblank@waterboards.ca.gov at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may dial 7-1-1 for the California Relay Service.

Document Availability

The proposed Basin Plan amendment, Staff Report, and Substitute Environmental Document will be available for review on the San Diego Water Board web site by **February 28, 2019**, at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/bio_objectives/

Submission of Written Comments

The San Diego Water Board will receive written comments on the proposed Basin Plan amendment, including Staff Report and Substitute Environmental Document, in accordance with this notice pursuant to 23 CCR Sec. 3779 and 40 CFR 25.5(b) and 25.10. The submission of written comments is the opportunity for interested persons to raise and comment on issues pertaining to the proposed Basin Plan amendment. Public input is strongly encouraged. The San Diego Water Board will prepare written responses to significant comments that are timely received.

Written comments must be received **by 5:00 p.m. on May 02, 2019**. Comments should be submitted via email to sandiego@waterboards.ca.gov in text searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) or Microsoft Word format. Written comments can also be submitted via regular U.S. mail to the San Diego Water Board office at 2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92108. Please indicate in the subject line of the email or comment letter **“Comment – Proposed Basin Plan Amendment to Incorporate Biological Objectives, PIN: CW-825417; Attn: Chad Loflen.”**

Background

The Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (Basin Plan) designates beneficial uses for water bodies in the San Diego Region and establishes water quality objectives and implementation plans to protect those beneficial uses. The objective of the federal Clean Water Act is “to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters.” Existing water quality objectives in the San Diego Water Board’s Basin Plan emphasize the chemical integrity of waters on a pollutant-by-pollutant basis, which can underestimate the biological integrity of waters. The goal and intent of the biological objectives project is to use biological assessment (“bioassessment”) to better assess, protect, and restore designated aquatic life beneficial uses of waters.

The San Diego Water Board is proposing to amend the Basin Plan to incorporate general narrative guidance for the development of biological objectives and incorporate a numeric biological water quality objective for perennial and seasonal streams using benthic macroinvertebrates and the California Stream Condition Index (CSCI). The proposed numeric biological water quality objectives use the CSCI to evaluate attainment of aquatic-wildlife beneficial uses, provide for protection of high quality streams, and prioritize restoration activities.

The San Diego Water Board 2014 triennial review of water quality standards identified the amendment of the Basin Plan to incorporate biological water quality objectives as a high priority project needed to protect and restore beneficial uses associated with aquatic and aquatic dependent wildlife. On May 13, 2015, the San Diego Water Board adopted Resolution R9-2015-0043, which directed staff to begin working on the project to amend the Basin Plan to incorporate biological water quality objectives.

On January 22, 2018, the San Diego Water Board released an administrative draft (Administrative Draft) of the proposed amendments to the Basin Plan to incorporate biological objectives and subsequently held a public workshop during the February 14, 2018, San Diego Water Board Meeting. The Administrative Draft was released, and public workshop held, in order to receive initial comments and feedback from San Diego Water Board Members and the public prior to releasing a formal draft for public and peer review. On October 10, 2018, the San Diego Water Board adopted Resolution R9-2018-0123, which directed staff to continue working on the project.

This notice is for the formal release, for public review and comment, of the Draft Basin Plan Amendments, Staff Report, and Substitute Environmental Document. Feedback received from San Diego Water Board Members and the public on the Administrative Draft was considered by San Diego Water Board staff prior to public release of the proposed Basin Plan amendment and associated documents.