

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Bay Region
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, CA 94612

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT AND PUBLIC HEARING
FOR DISCHARGE PERMIT**

**Tentative Order Regulating Nutrients in Discharges
from Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facilities to San Francisco Bay**

Board staff has prepared a draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for nearly all municipal wastewater discharges in the region in accordance with the Clean Water Act and Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. The draft permit would continue to regulate nutrients from municipal wastewater treatment plants that discharge treated wastewater to San Francisco Bay. Previous permits issued in 2014 and 2019 did not limit nutrient discharges because, at that time, nutrients had not been shown to harm San Francisco Bay. In July and August 2022, however, a significant harmful algae bloom occurred, and thousands of fish died, including sturgeon, leopard sharks, striped bass, and smaller fish. To ensure that future nutrient discharges cannot contribute to excessive algae growth, the draft permit proposes significant nutrient controls. Because the necessary improvements will take years to complete, the draft permit provides 10 years to comply.

The deadline for receipt of comment on the draft permit is **5:00 p.m. on May 6, 2024**. Comments must be sent to the **attention of Robert Schlipf**. Persons wishing to file written comments on any aspect of this matter must do so no later than this deadline so such comments may be considered.

The Board will consider adopting the draft permit during a meeting to commence at 9:00 a.m. on **June 12, 2024**. Interested persons are invited to express their views during this hearing.

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations Title 23 section 2050(c), any party who challenges the Board's action through a petition to the State Water Resources Control Board under Water Code section 13320 will be limited to raising only those substantive issues that were raised before the Board at the hearing or in timely submitted correspondence.

All documents related to the draft permit may be inspected at the Board office. The draft permit and developments on this matter are available at www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay. Board staff responses to comments will be posted on that website a week prior to the hearing. Contact **Robert Schlipf** at **(510) 622-2478** or **robert.schlipf@waterboards.ca.gov** if you have questions.