

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

Notice Date: February 15, 2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

CONDITIONAL WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRAZING OPERATIONS IN THE NORTH SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION (NAPA RIVER, SONOMA CREEK, PETALUMA RIVER, AND TOMALES BAY WATERSHEDS, INCLUDING ALL GRAZING OPERATIONS IN POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE)

March 15, 2024, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Click to Join Zoom Meeting

<https://waterboards.zoom.us/j/91685473530?pwd=ekNUa3ZRN0dUTHc0NURzS3EvRmZXQT09>

or join by phone (669) 900-9128

Meeting ID: 916 8547 3530

Passcode: 784022

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) staff will hold a public meeting to discuss the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Grazing Operations (Grazing Waiver) in the North San Francisco Bay Region, and the upcoming renewal and geographic scope expansion. The meeting will be conducted virtually through the Zoom online platform. Members of the public will be able to listen to and watch the meeting using the link provided above and ask questions or make comments. Additional public meetings, both virtual and in-person, will be held in Spring during the pre-hearing public notice and comment period.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Water Board currently regulates about 96,000 acres of grazing lands in the Tomales Bay, Sonoma Creek, and Napa River watersheds with two separate Grazing Waivers. A revised multi-watershed Grazing Waiver is proposed to renew expired existing waivers and to implement the recently adopted Petaluma River Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (effective May 10, 2021). In addition, grazing operations located within unregulated watersheds of Point Reyes National Seashore will be included in the revised Grazing Program scope of coverage. Requirements for Grazing Waiver compliance will largely remain the same, but the proposed Grazing Waiver will expand the current Grazing Waiver program by an estimated 26,000 acres.

The Grazing Waiver requires implementation measures to minimize and control discharges of animal waste and sediment runoff by evaluating current operating practices; identifying current and future effective site-specific pollutant control measures; developing an implementation schedule for needed management actions; and annual reporting on actions taken.

More information regarding the Water Board's Grazing Program can be found on our website:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/agriculture/.

MEETING FORMAT

The meeting will be conducted virtually. On top of this notice is the link or dial-in phone number needed to join the Zoom meeting.

The meeting will include information about the Water Board's Grazing Program, its renewal and geographic expansion, and a summary of implementation and progress to date. During the meeting, we will discuss and take comments from the public on the scope and content of the Grazing Waiver renewal and expansion.

Staff Contact: René Leclerc at Rene.Leclerc@waterboards.ca.gov. (510) 622-2410

LANGUAGE SERVICES AND ACCESSIBILITY

To request oral interpretation or sign language services, please submit your request to the staff contact listed above at least 7 calendar days before the meeting.

Telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at: TTY (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.