
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Céline Gallon
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Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board CG

DATE: July 11, 2017

SUBJECT: CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY – NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

This notice is to inform interested persons that the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) will conduct a stakeholder workshop to discuss the development of the Los Angeles Water Board's Climate Change Strategy. The stakeholder workshop will be held at the following date and location:

***Tuesday, August 8, 2017
9:30 am to 12:30 pm***

***Junipero Serra Building
320 West 4th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013
1st Floor Carmel Conference Room***

(Please allow extra time to pass through the security measures at the Junipero Serra Building)

Board staff will present the process that has been initiated to define potential actions to address climate change within its programs. The focus of the workshop is to seek input on how climate change will affect dischargers and other stakeholders and consider the relationship between these impacts and how the Board regulates discharges. If you have any questions, please contact me by email at celine.gallon@waterboards.ca.gov or at (213) 576-6784.

If you are planning to participate, please RSVP at celine.gallon@waterboards.ca.gov. Also, please share this invitation with any persons known to you who may be interested in this matter.

Background

Human activities over the past century have resulted in releases of large quantities of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, leading to the onset of significant changes in the earth's climate that will have substantial impacts on water resources, including water quality. More specifically, the predicted increase in temperatures, increased occurrence of extreme weather conditions (including extreme precipitation events and drought), and sea level rise could drastically alter hydrological and ecosystem processes in our region. Such impacts could manifest in multiple ways, such as decreases in stream flow, reductions in, and changes to, aquatic habitats, increases in surface water temperature, increases in pollutant levels, sedimentation, and algal growth, and changes in salinity levels and acidification in coastal areas. These impacts could affect many beneficial uses of our waters, including ecological habitats and associated species and recreational uses.

Because preserving water quality is essential to protect both human populations and natural ecosystems into the future, it is imperative to assess these impacts, and to develop strategies to adapt to the upcoming changes and mitigate their effects on water quality and on the beneficial uses of our waters.

Recognizing the challenges posed by climate change, on March 7, 2017, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted a resolution requiring a proactive approach to climate change in all Board actions, including drinking water regulation, water quality protection, and financial assistance ([Resolution No 2017-0012](#)).

Locally, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board has been working on the development of a Regional Climate Change Strategy. Efforts towards this end included the development of an initial "[Framework for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#)" for the Los Angeles region. This document took a first look at impacts of climate change on water supply and water quality for various waterbody types of the region, as well as through the lenses of the Los Angeles Water Board's programs, and began a discussion on issues that will need to be considered and tackled over time. Further work will include the development and consideration of specific actions to address climate change within the various Los Angeles Water Board's programs.

This workshop is an opportunity for stakeholders and interested persons 1) to learn more about the Los Angeles Water Board's work to develop a regional climate change strategy, and 2) to come together and discuss how the various impacts of climate change may affect facilities, the regulatory environment, and our water resources and associated beneficial uses, and how the Los Angeles Water Board could take these issues into consideration. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.