
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING ON AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE COASTAL WATERSHEDS OF LOS ANGELES AND VENTURA COUNTIES FOR THE ADDITION OF THREE NEW BENEFICIAL USE DEFINITIONS: TRIBAL TRADITION AND CULTURE (CUL), TRIBAL SUBSISTENCE FISHING (T-SUB) AND SUBSISTENCE FISHING (SUB) AND SUBSTITUTE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the State Water Resources Control Board (“State Water Board”) is seeking written public comments on the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (“Regional Water Board”) amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties for the addition of three new beneficial uses definitions: Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL), Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB) and Subsistence Fishing (SUB) (“Basin Plan amendment”) and the supporting final Substitute Environmental Documentation (“SED”).

BACKGROUND

The Los Angeles Water Board's Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) contains water quality standards for the coastal watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties in the Los Angeles Region. Chapter 2 of the Basin Plan contains beneficial uses that form the cornerstone of water quality protection in the region. Beneficial uses are mandated for all waterbodies within the state under the California Water Code. Since the first iteration of the Basin Plan in 1975, 25 beneficial uses have been identified by the Los Angeles Basin Plan.

On May 2, 2017, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted [Resolution No. 2017-0027](#), which approved “Part 2 of the Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California—Tribal and Subsistence Fishing Beneficial Uses and Mercury Provisions”. The provisions define the tribal tradition and culture (CUL), tribal subsistence fishing (T-SUB), and subsistence fishing (SUB) beneficial uses that should be used by Regional Water Quality Control Boards, including Los Angeles Water Board.

The Regional Water Board adopted the Basin Plan amendment and approved the SED on March 10, 2022, by [Resolution No. R22-001](#).

The proposed amendment to the Basin Plan will add three new beneficial use definitions to Chapter 2 of the Basin Plan: Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL), Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB), and Subsistence Fishing (SUB). The proposed amendment is intended to update the Basin Plan with the more current information.

The proposed amendment also advances the Water Boards' commitment to making racial equity and environmental justice central to implementing the agency's mission (State Water Board [Resolution No. 2021-0050](#)). Part of the Water Boards' commitment in this regard is to recognize the important uses of water resources by California Native American Tribes for food sources and cultural, spiritual, and traditional ways of living and to improve communication, working relationships, and co-management practices with California Native American Tribes.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

A link to electronic copies of the Basin Plan amendment and SED are available on the Regional Water Board's website at the [Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's Basin Plan webpage](#).

Alternatively, a copy of the Basin Plan amendment can also be received by mail by contacting Dr. Stefani Daryanto at (213) 576-6763 or Stefani.Daryanto@waterboards.ca.gov.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING WRITTEN COMMENTS

Persons interested in the Basin Plan amendment are encouraged to submit comments electronically. Comment letters must be received **by 12:00 noon on September 19, 2022**. Comment letters received after that deadline will not be accepted unless the State Water Board determines otherwise.

Address comments to Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the State Water Board. Please indicate in the subject line: "**Comment Letter - Addition of TBU Definitions to the Los Angeles Regional Basin Plan**".

Written comments may be submitted electronically in pdf format (if less than 15 megabytes in total size) to the Board Clerk via e-mail at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. If the file is greater than 15 megabytes in size, then the written comments may be submitted by fax at (916) 341-5620.

Alternatively, comments may be submitted by hand delivery or mail to:

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814-0100 (hand delivery)
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000 (mail)

Couriers delivering written comments must check in with lobby security personnel, who can contact Jeanine Townsend at (916) 341-5600.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMITTING COMMENTS

In accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3779, subdivision (f), the State Water Board may refuse to accept any comment that does not satisfy all of the following requirements:

1. Comments must specifically address the final version of the Basin Plan amendment adopted by the Regional Water Board.
2. If the Regional Water Board previously responded to a similar or identical comment, the commenter must explain why and in what manner the commenter believes each of the responses provided by the Regional Water Board to each comment was inadequate or incorrect.
3. The commenter also must include either a statement that each of the comments was timely raised before the Regional Water Board, or an explanation of why the commenter was unable to raise the specific comment before the Regional Water Board.

NOTICE IS FURTHER HEREBY GIVEN THAT the State Water Board will consider adopting a resolution to approve the Basin Plan amendment and SED.

The date, time, and location of the public meeting is:

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022 – 9.30 a.m.
Joe Serna Jr. – CalEPA Headquarters Building
1001 I Street, Second Floor – Coastal Hearing Room
Sacramento, CA 95814
and via Video and Teleconference

Video and Teleconference Option: This meeting will occur with both a physical meeting location and an option for the public to participate from a remote location.

- For those who only wish to watch the meeting, the webcast remains available at either <https://www.youtube.com/user/BoardWebSupport/> or <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/> (closed captioning available) and should be used UNLESS you intend to comment.
- For members of the public who wish to comment on an agenda item or are presenting to the Board, additional information about participating telephonically or via the remote meeting solution is available here: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/remote_meeting/

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants at the public meeting. However, the State Water Board and its staff may ask clarifying questions. To ensure a productive and efficient meeting in which all participants have an opportunity to participate, oral presentations may be time limited. For other presentation recommendations go to:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/meetings/board_presentations.shtml .

If you require language interpretation or sign language services, please email a request to Dr. Stefani Daryanto at (213) 576-6763 or Stefani.Daryanto@Waterboards.ca.gov as far in advance of the meeting as possible. Telecommunications device for the hearing impaired (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

Any change to the information noticed above will be provided via the State Water Board's email distribution list. Any person desiring to receive future notices must subscribe to the list serve e-mail distribution list by accessing the following e-mail list subscription form:

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

To subscribe, select Water Quality, Freshwater Plans and Policies.

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

For directions to the Joe Serna, Jr. (CalEPA) Building and public parking information, please refer to the map on the State Water Board website:

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/headquarters-sacramento/location/>.


The CalEPA Building is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to call (916) 341-5254 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

All visitors to the CalEPA Building are required to sign in and obtain a badge at the Visitor Services Center located just inside the main entrance (10th Street entrance). Valid picture identification may be required. Please allow up to 15 minutes for receiving security clearance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct questions about this notice to Dr. Stefani Daryanto at the Los Angeles Water Board, at (213) 576-6763 or Stefani.Daryanto@Waterboards.ca.gov; or Ms. Sophie Froelich, Office of Chief Counsel, at (916) 319-8557 or Sophie.Froelich@waterboards.ca.gov.

August 19, 2022
Date


Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board