



State Water Resources Control Board

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

INFORMATION ITEM

PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM
THE EXTERNAL SCIENTIFIC PLANNING AND REVIEW COMMITTEE (SPARC)
REGARDING THE SURFACE WATER AMBIENT MONITORING PROGRAM (SWAMP)

Friday, December 9, 2005 - 10:00 a.m.
State Water Resources Control Board
Sierra Hearing Room – Second Floor
Joe Serna, Jr. Cal/EPA Headquarters Building
1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public workshop will be held by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to discuss SPARC external review and preliminary recommendations regarding SWAMP. State Water Board staff and the Chair of SPARC will discuss the scientific review and the initial recommendations for improving SWAMP. The State Water Board seeks public comment on SWAMP and the SPARC review. The State Water Board will not make any decision regarding SWAMP at this workshop. Final recommendations from SPARC will be presented at a future State Water Board workshop.

BACKGROUND

SWAMP is envisioned to provide the California Water Boards with comprehensive information on the status of beneficial uses in surface waters. The purpose of SWAMP is to provide a statewide framework for coordination of high quality, consistent, and scientifically defensible methods and strategies to improve water quality monitoring, assessment, and reporting. SWAMP is framed around beneficial use assessment and regulatory responsibilities. To meet Clean Water Act objectives, SWAMP should answer the following questions:

1. What is the overall water quality?
2. To what extent is water quality changing over time?
3. What are the problem areas and areas needing protection?
4. What level of protection is needed?
5. How effective are clean water projects and programs?

A triennial external scientific review is part of SWAMP's ongoing programmatic review process. The current review was initiated in October 2005 and preliminary recommendations have been made by SPARC. Staff is in the process of responding to the initial recommendations. A final report will be available in March 2006 that includes a chapter prepared by Water Board staff on how SWAMP will change in response to the external review.

California Environmental Protection Agency

SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

This is an information item only. The State Water Board seeks public comment on the issues that should be addressed as part of the triennial external scientific review of SWAMP.

Written comments should be submitted by 5 p.m., December 6, 2005 to:

Clerk to the Board, State Water Resources Control Board, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100; or email to: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov; or fax to: (916) 341-5620.

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

The enclosed map shows the location of the workshop.

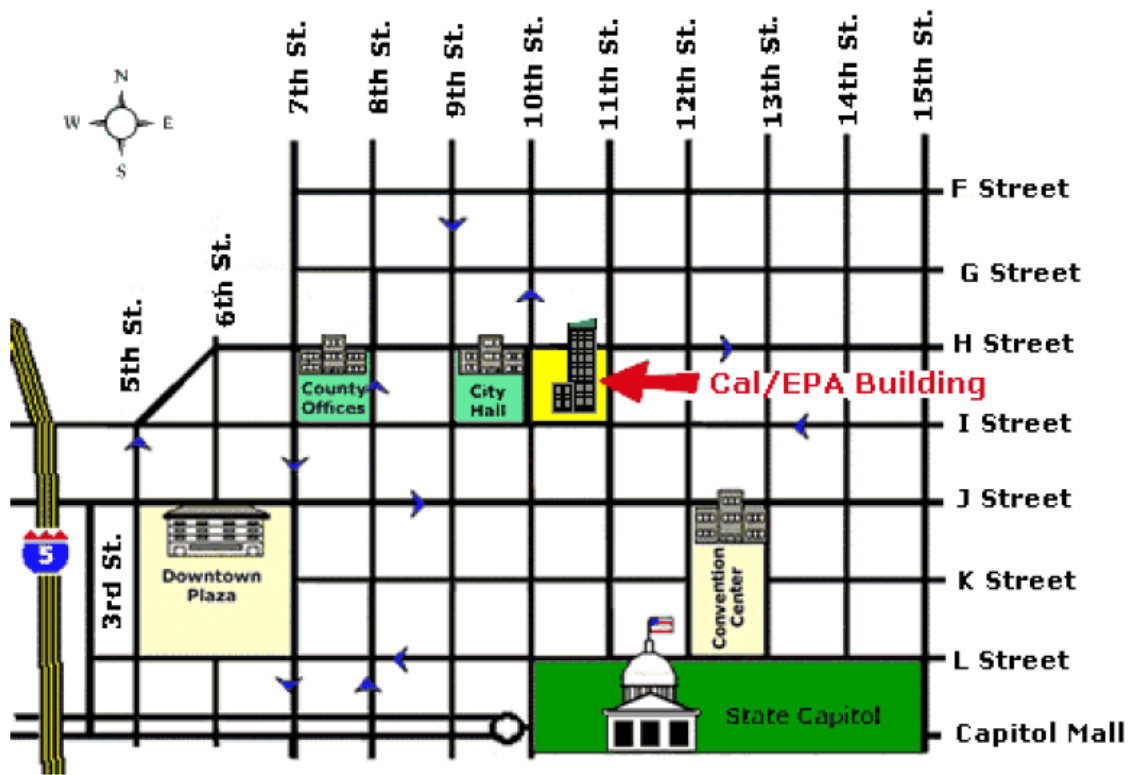
There is a parking garage across the street from the building with entrances on 10th and 11th Streets between "I" and "J" Streets, and there are metered parking spaces in the vicinity of the building.

All visitors are required to sign in and receive a badge prior to attending any meetings in the Cal/EPA building. The Visitor and Environmental Services Center is located just inside and to the left of the Cal/EPA Building's public entrance. Valid picture identification may be required due to the security level. Please allow up to 15 minutes for receiving clearance to proceed to the Sierra Hearing Room.



Selica Potter
Acting Clerk to the Board

Date: November 14, 2005



Parking

Metered Parking (1, 2, and 10-hour meters) is available around the building. Meter parking uses quarters (some meters may use special "debit cards").

Parking lots are also available in several nearby locations. The closest lot is across from the building on 10th & I Street.

