

Get involved...

## Working with all Californians

### Environmental Justice

The Water Boards support the achievement of environmental justice (EJ) for all Californians. EJ is defined in California Government Code section 65040.12 as “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws and policies.” The Water Boards believe that EJ will be achieved when everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

The Water Boards have incorporated EJ Goals within its Strategic Plan. These strategies include:

1. Training all Board staff on the fundamentals of environmental justice;
2. Reviewing existing public participation methods and recommending adjustments to ensure inclusion of all communities;
3. Establishing a complaint process for communities to follow in alleging environmental injustice; and,
4. Establishing a monitoring system to assess disparate impacts of enforcement decisions in EJ Communities.

### Written Translation & Oral Interpretation Services

The Water Boards provides written translated documents as well as oral interpretation services at many of its public meetings and workshops where such a need has been indicated in advance. Such requests should be made in writing by letter or email and

addressed to OPP or pertinent program staff. Requests should be received two weeks prior to the pertinent meeting or workshop. OPP can be reached at 916 341-5252.

### Special Accomodation

Individuals who require special accomodation due to a disability are requested to contact the State Board’s Office of Employee Assistance at (916) 341-5880. Requests should be received at least seven days prior to a meeting.

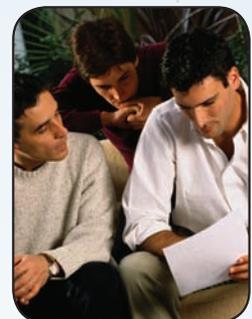
### California Environmental Protection Agency

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICY

In addition to the Water Boards’ own policies, the Boards’ public participation efforts are guided by Cal/EPA’s public participation policy. This policy, still in draft form, envisions that Cal/EPA and its Boards, Departments and Offices (BDOs) will share a consistent public participation approach and develop common public participation guidelines, training, and tools, including community databases.

*“All members of the public shall have access to the decision-making processes of each Board, Department and Office (BDO) within the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA). Efforts to engage and inform the public will begin early and continue through implementation of the decisions.”*

The full text of the draft policy can be found at: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EnvJustice>



process

invaluable

jump right in...

making

get involved...

...participate

decision-

opportunities

participate