

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 29, 2021

Prepared on January 11, 2021

ITEM NUMBER: 11

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board

STAFF CONTACTS: Matt Keeling 805/549-3140
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ACTION: Information/Discussion

KEY INFORMATION: This item presents a brief discussion of issues that may interest the Board. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any item.

WATER BOARD'S RACIAL EQUITY INITIATIVE

[Angela Schroeter, 805/542-4644, Angela.Schroeter@waterboards.ca.gov]

Introduction

The high-profile incidents of social unrest and police violence against Black Americans in recent months have sparked nationwide protests and renewed calls to eliminate systemic racism. Recognizing this critical challenge to achieve racial equity, the State Water Board's Executive Director, Eileen Sobeck, is committed to leading the organization in an effort to respond and implement changes to ensure the Water Boards' policies and programs are equitable and just for all Californians.

In August 2020, the State Water Board directed staff to implement the Racial Equity Initiative and convene a Racial Equity Steering Committee and Working Group. The Racial Equity Steering Committee includes eight members representing the Water Boards and one member representing CalEPA; Their primary responsibility is to ensure the Water Boards remain committed to advancing racial equity and to direct the Working Group's progress on implementing the following priorities: 1) Establish a foundation of internal and external engagement that values listening and collaboration to drive action, 2) Draft, vet and finalize a resolution on racial equity to be considered for adoption by the State Board and also leveraged by Regional Water Boards to adopt their own resolutions, and 3) Develop racial equity strategies and action plans to drive efforts for the coming years. The Working Group includes approximately 20-25 Water Board employees; Angela Schroeter represents Region 3.

As an initial step, the Racial Equity Steering Committee and Working Group held four community listening sessions to gather input from external stakeholders in November and December 2020.

INTEGRATED REPORT UPDATE

[Shanta Keeling, 805/549-3464, Shanta.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov]

Introduction

This is an informational update regarding the status of the Integrated Report for the listing cycle year 2020/2022. The Integrated Report includes the federal Clean Water Act section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and section 305(b) Surface Water Quality Conditions Report. The Clean Water Act section 303(d) List identifies waterbodies that do not meet one or more water quality standards and are therefore “impaired.” Clean Water Act section 305(b) requires states to report to USEPA on the condition of its surface water quality, including both impaired waterbodies and those that are attaining water quality standards.

Process and Schedule

In January 2021, Central Coast Water Board staff will complete data assessments and fact sheets for over 7,500 waterbody and pollutant combinations. The State Water Board will administer the public process on behalf of the Regional Water Boards. Although this eliminates the Regional Water Board approval process, the Central Coast Water Board staff is tentatively planning to host a public workshop in May or June of 2021 (during the State Water Board’s public comment period). While members of the Central Coast Water Board may be present, no formal action or decisions will be taken by the Central Coast Water Board at this workshop.

The table below describes key tasks for Central Coast Water Board staff and opportunities for public participation in the 2020/2022 Integrated Report approval process. The schedule may change slightly but is the best estimate based on the State Board timeline as of December 2020.

Task	Date
Complete data assessments and Integrated Report decisions (waterbody/pollutant combination fact sheets)	January 2021
Assist State Board staff with preparing the Integrated Report Staff Report	January 2021
Public comment period	May – July 2021
Central Coast Region public workshop(s) hosted by Central Coast Water Board staff.	May or June 2021
State Board hosted public workshop*	June or July 2021
Assist State Board staff with preparing Response to Comments	August 2021
State Board adoption hearing*	December 21, 2021
Submittal to USEPA	March 2022

*Central Coast Water Board staff will provide presentations at these meetings.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Please see the following standard attachments.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Table 1 - 401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received
2. Table 2 - 401 Water Quality Certifications Issued
3. Table 3 - Groundwater Section, Case Closure Performance Scoreboard
4. Table 4 - Groundwater Case Closures
5. Table 5 - Enrollments In General Orders/Waivers

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