



NOTICE OF STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP FOR PROPOSED GENERAL PERMIT FOR DISCHARGES FROM DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS

Date: Friday, January 24, 2014
Time: 9:00 am to 12:30 pm
Location: Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
101 8th Street, Oakland, CA 94607

Directions: The MTC's MetroCenter Auditorium is across the street from the Lake Merritt BART station. A parking garage is at the Oakland Museum at 11th Street and Oak Street (entrance on Oak between 11th and 12th Streets). [Click here for more travel information](#) or visit the MTC's website at: http://www.mtc.ca.gov/about_mtc/directions.htm

Water districts and water purveyors regularly discharge drinking water into storm drains and other conveyances that drain to surface waters. Planned discharges are part of a water purveyor's essential operations to comply with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the California Health and Safety Code for providing reliable and safe drinking water. Surface water discharges also occur from pipe breaks, system failures and emergencies.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has embarked on a unique effort to develop a drinking water discharge permit for Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) to implement per their discretion. The proposed permit will be a new general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit as required by the Clean Water Act, section 402 for point source discharges to surface waters.

Get Involved

Interested parties are invited to participate. Visit our Water Board website for more information at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/npdes/#new

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: If these discharges are required because of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and California Health and Safety Code requirements, why is an NPDES permit necessary?

A: Although potable and treated drinking water is safe for drinking, some discharges from drinking water systems harm aquatic life and impair the quality of surface water. For example, drinking water discharges can contain chlorine concentrations that are toxic to many aquatic species. Additionally, the discharges can cause erosion and sediment transport to surface waters leading to high concentrations of in-water suspended solids and changes in water body formations and shorelines. In some cases, these discharges can also alter natural water temperature and water chemistry such as pH. The proposed NPDES permit will focus on these specific threats.

PROPOSED NPDES PERMIT FOR DISCHARGES FROM DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS

Q: Will this new permit be applicable statewide?

A: No, this proposed permit is multi-regional and will only be applicable in regions where the corresponding Regional Water Board chooses to implement it. The State Water Board, in consultation with the nine Regional Water Boards across California, decided to lead a joint effort with the San Francisco Bay and Los Angeles Regional Water Boards already working on the same or similar permits for drinking water system discharges. The Regional Water Boards that do not choose to join in the multi-regional process will continue to address drinking water discharges in a manner that each Regional Water Board deems appropriate for their region. The benefit that a multi-regional permit will provide to the Regions involved is an efficient, fair and consistent process for regulating drinking water system discharges.

Q: My drinking water system is already covered under an existing Municipal Separate Stormwater System NPDES permit (MS4 permit). Will I be required to seek coverage under the new permit?

A: Whether a drinking water system is regulated by an MS4 permit or a separate NPDES permit is a discretionary decision of the individual Regional Water Boards. However, a Discharger will likely have increased protection from enforcement or third party lawsuits under a separate NPDES permit that is designed specifically for drinking water discharges.

Drinking Water System Discharge Permit Concepts for Discussion

- Tailored requirements for drinking water constituents
- Best management practices for dechlorinating water and preventing erosion and sediment transport
- Administrative practices to be ready for planned and unplanned discharges
- Representative monitoring and reporting

Examples of Drinking Water System Discharges

- Storage tanks and reservoir dewatering
- Distribution system tank dewatering
- Distribution system flushing
- Distribution system pipeline dewatering,
- Fire flow testing
- Meter testing
- Groundwater well purge flows
- Emergency system repairs
- Emergency Discharges

Q: How can I be involved in the process to provide input regarding the development of permit criteria?

A: We encourage you to participate either in person or via webcast. Visit our State Water Board website for information about meetings, workshops or other permit updates at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/npdes/#new

Water Board Contacts

Please send an email titled **Proposed Drinking Water Discharge Permit** to one of the following Water Board Contacts to be added to our informational email listing:

Contact	Email Address	Water Board
Claudia Villacorta	Claudia.Villacorta@waterboards.ca.gov	San Francisco Bay Water Board
Susan Glendening	Susan.Glendening@waterboards.ca.gov	
Diana Messina	Diana.Messina@waterboards.ca.gov	State Water Board
David Hung	David.Hung@waterboards.ca.gov	Los Angeles Water Board