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## State Water Resources Control Board

**TO:** Dr. Gerald Bowes  
Manager, Cal/EPA Scientific Peer Review Program  
**OFFICE OF RESEARCH, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE**

**FROM:** Rik Rasmussen   
Chief, TMDL Section  
**DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY**

**DATE:** December 7, 2011

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST FOR EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW OF PROPOSED POLICY FOR TOXICITY ASSESSMENT AND CONTROL

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Water Quality requests by transmittal of this memo that external reviewers be identified for review of the draft Policy for Toxicity Assessment and Control (draft Policy) and accompanying Staff Report. This is in accordance with the requirements of Health and Safety Code section 57004.

The draft Policy proposes numeric objectives for chronic and acute toxicity, standardized monitoring schedules, and the use of U.S. EPA's Test of Significant Toxicity (TST). State Water Board staff seeks additional analysis of the peer-reviewed TST approach and the feasibility of its use as implemented in the proposed Policy.

The draft Policy and Staff Report will be provided to reviewers, in addition to several supporting documents (e.g. TST technical and implementation documents and prior TST peer review). Given the importance of this water quality standard, we request that the reviewers provide comments within 30 days of receipt of these documents.

State Water Board staff recommends the solicitation of two reviewers. One reviewer with expertise in statistical methods related to toxicity testing is needed, and extensive knowledge of traditional hypothesis testing, point estimates, and/or bioequivalence testing is preferred. The other reviewer must have expertise in environmental toxicology with an emphasis on vertebrates, invertebrates, and/or aquatic plant life.

We are providing the following attachments for additional information:

- Attachment 1 contains additional background information for the draft Policy
- Attachment 2 identifies the scientific issues to be addressed by peer reviewers
- Attachment 3 identifies individuals involved in the development of the draft Policy and related projects

- Attachment 4 identifies the draft Policy, Staff Report, and supporting documents that will be provided to peer reviewers
- Attachment 5 contains a list of significant milestones in the development of the draft Policy

The staff contact for this project is Brian Ogg, who can be reached at: (916) 323-9689 or via email at [bogg@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:bogg@waterboards.ca.gov). Thank you for your assistance.

cc: Brian Ogg, Environmental Scientist  
Paul Hann, Senior Environmental Scientist