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## State Water Resources Control Board

# NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

## PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO STATEWIDE STORM WATER PERMIT FOR STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROPOSED REVISION OF AREAS OF SPECIAL BIOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE PRIORITY DISCHARGE MONITORING LOCATIONS

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will receive public comments on proposed revisions to priority discharge locations in Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) as specified in Attachment III of the California Department of Transportation Statewide Storm Water Permit (Permit).<sup>1</sup> Following review of public comments, the Executive Director will determine if the proposed revisions to the Permit will be approved.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The State Water Board adopted the Permit on September 19, 2012. The Permit became effective on July 1, 2013. Attachment III of the Permit specifies 77 monitoring locations across seven ASBS that are representative of storm water discharges that pose the greatest threat to water quality and require monitoring and installation of structural or non-structural controls if the monitoring results show exceedance of natural water quality. Monitoring at the 77 priority discharge locations is consistent with the State Water Board Exceptions to the California Ocean Plan for Selected Discharges into ASBS<sup>2</sup> (General Exception).

In preparation for the monitoring, the California Department of Transportation conducted an extensive pre-monitoring site investigation. Of the 77 ASBS priority discharge locations specified in Attachment III, the Department, in consultation with State Water Board staff, determined that 27 locations were unsuitable for monitoring due to safety or access limitations. For each unsuitable location, an alternate location within the same ASBS and near the original sampling location was identified. State Water Board staff determined that monitoring at the alternate locations will not compromise the monitoring objectives of the General Exception or the Permit requirements, and that the alternate sampling locations will provide a more accurate characterization of the storm water quality discharged from the Department's outfalls.

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<sup>1</sup> State Water Board Order 2012-0011-DWQ

<sup>2</sup> State Water Board Resolution 2012-0012 as amended by Resolution 2012-0031

During the pre-investigation, the Department also found that the coordinates for another 30 discharge locations in Attachment III varied slightly from the actual locations. For these discharge locations, Attachment III is additionally being revised to indicate the accurate coordinates.

**DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY**

The proposed amendment and related documents are available to view or download on the State Water Board's Web site at:

[http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/caltrans.shtml](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/caltrans.shtml).

Interested parties may request a paper copy of the proposed amendment by contacting Ms. Jenny Chen at (916) 341-5570 or [Jenny.Chen@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jenny.Chen@waterboards.ca.gov).

**SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS**

Interested parties may submit their written comments electronically, by mail, or hand delivery. Comment letters may be submitted electronically, in PDF text format (if less than 15 megabytes in total size), to the Clerk to the Board via email at [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov). If the file is greater than 15 megabytes in total size, then the comment letter may be submitted by fax at (916) 341-5620. Written comments **must be received by 12:00 noon on March 16, 2015** and addressed to:

Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Please also indicate in the subject line, "**Comment Letter – Caltrans Alternate ASBS Priority Discharge Locations.**"

Couriers delivering hard copies of the comment letters must check with lobby security personnel, who can contact Ms. Townsend at (916) 341-5600

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Questions about this notice may be directed to Ms. Jenny Chen at (916) 341-5570, [Jenny.Chen@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jenny.Chen@waterboards.ca.gov), or to Ms. Katherine Faick at (916) 445-2317, [Katherine.Faick@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Katherine.Faick@waterboards.ca.gov).

February 13, 2015  
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Date

  
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Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board