



San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

Notice Date: July 14, 2021

NOTICE OF CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT SCOPING MEETING

BASIN PLAN AMENDMENT TO CLARIFY PLANNING AND PERMITTING POLICIES
FOR HABITAT RESTORATION AND MULTI-BENEFIT CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) staff will hold a public workshop and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting to seek public input on the scope, content, and potential environmental effects from a proposed amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin ([Basin Plan](#)). This amendment would clarify the Water Board's preferred policies related to planning and permitting estuarine habitat restoration and multi-benefit climate change adaptation projects along the shorelines and low-lying areas of San Francisco Bay and the outer Pacific Coast. The meeting will be conducted by video and teleconference. Members of the public will be able to listen to and watch the meeting and comment using the link provided below.

DATE **Wednesday, July 27, 2021**
TIME 10 AM – 12 Noon
LOCATION Virtual meeting via Zoom.
<https://waterboards.zoom.us/j/92197029420?pwd=MUUzNE10SW1ZMTgyR2hJM2JUeUelZqQT09>
Meeting ID: 921 9702 9420
Passcode: 088600
Dial: +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Basin Plan amendment would amend portions of Chapters 1, 2, and 4 of the Basin Plan. It proposes clarifications to support decision-making by project applicants and Water Board regulatory staff, expedite project planning and permitting, and protect the beneficial uses of San Francisco Bay, the Pacific Ocean, and their adjacent habitats. The amendment would:

- Clarify how Water Board staff would determine the applicable beneficial uses for estuarine wetlands and related habitats within the region.

JIM McGRATH, CHAIR | MICHAEL MONTGOMERY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

- Clarify how Water Board staff would interpret and apply the Wetland Fill Policy, including the California Wetlands Conservation Policy (commonly referred to as “No Net Loss”), to ensure that implementation of these projects will result in no long-term net loss of wetland acreage and functions.
- Clarify the Water Board’s preferred strategies for multi-benefit habitat restoration and climate change adaptation within the region. In general, preferred strategies would be those that (1) are developed within a long-term, landscape-scale (cross-jurisdictional) framework, (2) utilize natural and/or nature-based design approaches, and (3) are based on the most recent science describing climate change, its potential impacts in the region, and the potential benefits of natural and nature-based approaches to climate change adaptation.

MEETING FORMAT

The meeting will consist of a public workshop where Water Board staff will describe the project followed by a question and answer session. Immediately following the workshop, Water Board staff will open a public scoping meeting, pursuant to CEQA (Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.).

The Water Board is required to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of a Basin Plan amendment and will incorporate this environmental analysis into the proposed amendment and supporting staff report. During the scoping session, we will hear and discuss comments from the public on the scope and content of the project and its potential environmental effects. Scoping helps the Water Board identify the range of actions to consider, alternative actions, whether potentially significant environmental effects may need to be mitigated, and if yes, what mitigation measures could be taken.

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