



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
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State Water Resources Control Board

Executive Office

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Workshops to Receive Information Regarding Draft Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams

SUBJECT OF WORKSHOPS

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is holding two public workshops to receive input on the Draft Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams. A quorum of State Water Board members may be present at these workshops; however, no Board action will be taken. The dates, times and locations of the workshop sessions are provided below:

Tuesday, August 5, 2008

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Red Rooms
Ukiah Valley Conference Center
200 South School Street
Ukiah, CA 95482
707-463-6700

Wednesday, August 6, 2008

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Merlo Theater
Wells Fargo Center for the Arts
50 Mark West Springs Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
707-527-7006

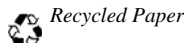
BACKGROUND

The State Water Board's mission is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations. Through Assembly Bill 2121 (AB 2121) (Stats. 2004, ch. 943), the Legislature required the State Water Board to adopt principles and guidelines for maintaining instream flows in northern California coastal streams for the purposes of water right administration. In considering the adoption of a policy that includes these principles and guidelines, the State Water Board must balance instream flow needs, such as fisheries, aquatic habitat, recreation, and navigation, against the needs of other uses, including water diversion for agricultural uses.

The State Water Board released the draft policy, pursuant to the requirements of AB 2121, on December 28, 2007. The draft policy would apply to applications to appropriate water, small domestic use and livestock stockpond registrations, and water right petitions. The geographic scope of the draft policy encompasses coastal streams from the Mattole River to San Francisco and coastal streams entering San Pablo Bay, and extends to five counties: Marin, Sonoma, and portions of Napa, Mendocino, and Humboldt counties.

The final date for submittal of written comments on the draft policy and its associated environmental document and scientific report was May 1, 2008. The comment letters are available for viewing on the State Water Board's website at http://www.waterrights.ca.gov/HTML/instreamflow_nccs_publiccomment.html.

California Environmental Protection Agency



State Water Board staff is reviewing the written comments and will reevaluate aspects of the draft policy based on the written comments and comments received during these workshops.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The workshops will be informal. No action will be taken by the State Water Board at the workshops. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants; however, the State Water Board and its staff may ask clarifying questions.

These workshops will give participants an opportunity to provide input on the proposed policy. To ensure productive and efficient workshops, and to ensure that all interested parties have an opportunity to participate, time limits may be imposed on oral presentations. Participants with similar comments are requested to make joint presentations.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE WORKSHOPS

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Steve Herrera, Chief of the Permitting Section, Division of Water Rights, at (916) 341-5337; or Karen Niiya, Senior Engineer, at (916) 341-5365.

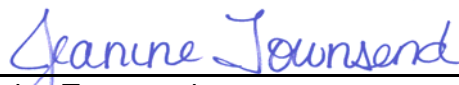
Note: To subscribe to an email list for future notifications about the draft policy, go to the State Water Board's website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml, and choose "AB 2121 Instream Flow Guidelines for Northern Coastal Streams".

LOCATIONS AND ACCESSIBILITY

Both locations are accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact Karen Niiya at (916) 341-5365, at least five business days prior to the first workshop date. Persons with hearing or speech impairments can contact Ms. Niiya by using the California Relay Service Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD). TDD is reachable only from phones equipped with a TDD device. HEARING IMPAIRED RELAY SERVICE: TDD to voice 1-800-735-2929; voice to TDD 1-800-735-2922.

July 3, 2008

Date



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board