
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, PUBLIC WORKSHOPS, AND BOARD CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT PROPOSITION 68 GROUNDWATER - DRINKING WATER TREATMENT OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FUNDING PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Opportunity for Public Comments on Draft Guidelines

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will accept written comments on the Draft Proposition 68 Groundwater - Drinking Water Treatment Operations and Maintenance Funding Program (Program) Guidelines (Draft Guidelines). Written comments must be submitted no later than 12:00 noon on Tuesday, May 31, 2022. Written comments must be submitted per the procedures in the "Submission of Comments" section of this public notice.

Proposition 68 Groundwater - Drinking Water Treatment Operations and Maintenance Funding Program Workshop

NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN that State Water Board staff will conduct three public workshops on the Draft Guidelines. The workshops will be held on:

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Central Valley Workshop

San Joaquin Conference Room

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board – Fresno Office

1685 E Street

Fresno, CA 93706

In-Person Participation Only

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Southern California Workshop

Division of Drinking Water – Glendale Office

500 North Central Avenue, Suite 500

Glendale, CA 91203

In-Person Participation Only

Friday, May 27, 2022
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Northern California Workshop
Sierra Hearing Room, Second Floor
Joe Serna Jr. – CalEPA Headquarters
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
In-Person and Remote Participation

The workshops will include a presentation about the Draft Guidelines as well as the opportunity for participants to provide oral comments. Any interested person may ask questions or provide input. However, formal written comments should not be submitted during the workshops. A quorum of the State Water Board may be present, but the State Water Board will take no action.

WORKSHOP LOGISTICS

The Central Valley and Southern California workshops will be conducted in-person only. The Northern California workshop will be conducted in-person, with an option for the public to participate from a remote location. You can join the Northern California workshop online using Zoom or by phone:

- To join online, use the following link: <https://waterboards.zoom.us/j/95449908607>
- To join by phone, call (669) 900-9128 and use meeting ID # 954 4990 8607

LANGUAGE SERVICES

To request language interpretation or sign language services, please submit your request at least ten business days before the meeting (by May 10, 2022) by contacting Marina Pérez at (916) 322-4265.

SERVICIO DE INTERPRETACIÓN DE IDIOMAS

Para solicitar el servicio de interpretación de idiomas o en el lenguaje de señas, comuníquese a más tardar el 10 de mayo con Marina Pérez al número telefónico (916) 322-4265.

Board Consideration of Draft Guidelines

NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Board will consider adoption of the Draft Guidelines on July 6, 2022, at the State Water Board Meeting (Board Meeting). The anticipated date, time, and location of the Board Meeting are provided below:

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, July 6, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.
Coastal Hearing Room, Second Floor
Joe Serna Jr. – CalEPA Building
1001 I Street, Sacramento
And via Video and Teleconference
(For public commenters.)

Video and Teleconference Option: This meeting will occur with both a physical meeting location and an option for the public to participate from a remote location.

- For those who only wish to watch the meeting, the webcast remains available at either <https://www.youtube.com/user/BoardWebSupport/> or <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/> (closed captioning available) and should be used UNLESS you intend to comment.
- For members of the public who wish to comment on an agenda item or are presenting to the Board, additional information about participating telephonically or via the remote meeting solution is available here:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/remote_meeting/

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

At the July 6, 2022, Board Meeting, the State Water Board will consider adoption of the Draft Guidelines. Participants may summarize and supplement written materials with oral presentations during the Board Meeting. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants. However, State Water Board members and staff may ask clarifying questions. To ensure a productive and efficient Board Meeting, a time limit may be imposed for oral comments.

For recommendations regarding presentations to the Board, please go to:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/meetings/board_presentations.html .

ACCESSIBILITY

Telecommunications device for the hearing impaired (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

Draft Proposition 68 Groundwater - Drinking Water Treatment Operations and Maintenance Funding Program Guidelines

BACKGROUND

Chapter 11.1 of the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (commonly referred to as Proposition 68 [Prop 68]) gave the State Water Board the authority to administer \$74 million in grant funds for treatment and remediation activities that prevent or reduce the contamination of groundwater that serves as a source of drinking water. \$16 million of the total amount is set-aside for projects serving severely disadvantaged communities (SDACs). The State Water Board adopted Prop 68 Groundwater Treatment and Remediation Grant Program Guidelines (Prop 68 GW Guidelines) on August 20, 2019, to serve as the required project solicitation and evaluation guidelines for the State Water Board's Groundwater Treatment and Remediation Grant Program.

After funding two rounds of projects solicited under the Prop 68 GW Guidelines, approximately \$29.5 million remains uncommitted, of which approximately \$8.5 million is reserved for SDACs. To utilize these remaining funds and to help meet the significant needs of disadvantaged communities (DACs) across California, the State Water Board adopted Resolution No. 2020-0028 (Resolution) on August 18, 2020. The Resolution delegates authority to the Deputy Director of the Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) to award these remaining funds to assist DAC drinking water systems that treat groundwater for direct potable use, without necessarily remediating the aquifer, and waives the Prop 68 GW Guidelines for these projects.

DFA is proposing to implement the Draft Guidelines to distribute the uncommitted \$29.5 million to small DAC drinking water systems. By implementing the Draft Guidelines, DFA can distribute Prop 68 funding to benefit small DACs and SDACs statewide. The Draft Guidelines establish the process and criteria for the administration of the uncommitted Prop 68 Chapter 11.1 funding. If Prop 68 funds are uncommitted at the end of 2022, Resolution 2020-0028 authorizes the Deputy Director of DFA to utilize any funds remaining unencumbered to extend executed funding agreements for the O&M projects funded according to the Prop 68 GW Guidelines, contingent upon budget authority.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The Draft Guidelines are available for public comment at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/propositions/prop68.html.

You may also request a copy of the Draft Guidelines by contacting Groundwater.Funding@waterboards.ca.gov.

After reviewing public comments received before 12:00 noon on Tuesday, May 31, 2022, or received during the Staff Workshop, the Draft Guidelines will be updated if necessary and will be posted on the July 6, 2022, Board Meeting agenda.

This will occur as part of the regular State Water Board Meeting Agenda process and can be viewed online at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar/#07-2022.

SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

The State Water Board will accept written comments on the Draft Guidelines. Participants may also provide oral comments to supplement their written comments, as described in the above sections on the Workshop and Board Meeting. To submit written comments, please use the subject line: **“Comment Letter – Draft Proposition 68 Groundwater - Drinking Water Treatment Operations and Maintenance Funding Program Guidelines.”** Written comments must be received by **12:00 noon on Tuesday, May 31, 2022**, and should be submitted to the attention of:

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

Comment letters may be submitted to the Clerk to the Board via email (if less than 15 megabytes) at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. If the electronic comment letter is greater than 15 megabytes, it may be submitted by fax at (916) 341-5620. Couriers delivering hard copies of comment letters must check in with lobby security personnel, who can contact Ms. Townsend at (916) 341-5600.

FUTURE NOTICES

Any change to the public workshop dates, the public comment period, or the meeting date for the State Water Board to consider adoption of the Draft Guidelines will be provided via the State Water Board’s email distribution list. Any person desiring notice of any changes must be subscribed to the State Water Board’s email list.

The subscription form is located at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.html.

To subscribe, select the “General Interests” category, then check the box for “Board Meetings” and provide the required information.

Additionally, any person desiring notices concerning funding opportunities for groundwater cleanup may subscribe to the groundwater cleanup list. To subscribe, use the above link and select the “Financial Assistance (Grants and Loans)” category, then check the box for “Groundwater Quality Funding Assistance” and provide the required information.

Any person desiring notices concerning environmental justice may subscribe to that email list. To subscribe, use the above link and select the “General Interests” category, then check the box for “Environmental Justice - OPP” and provide the required information.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct all questions regarding this notice to
Groundwater.Funding@waterboards.ca.gov.

April 22, 2022
Date


Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board