
State Water Resources Control Board

Notice of Board Meeting

Consideration of Adoption of Utility Wildfire and Similar Operations and Maintenance Activities Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and General Waste Discharge Requirements (General Order) and Associated Environmental Impact Report

The State Water Resources Control Board will conduct a Board Meeting on August 19, 2026 to consider adoption of the General Order and associated Environmental Impact Report. The General Order would cover electric utility wildfire prevention, response, and other similar routine operation and maintenance activities that may cause or threaten to cause a discharge of waste into waters of the state. Additional information about this project is provided below.

Participation Options

Review the Available Documents

Review the General Order, proposed resolution certifying the Final Environmental Impact Report, and responses to comments received on the March 28, 2025 draft through the following links. Physical copies of the available documents may be mailed to you upon request by contacting staff as described below.

[State Water Board's 401 Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Program website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/statewide-utility-wildfire-mitigation-general-order.html)
(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/statewide-utility-wildfire-mitigation-general-order.html).

Attend the Public Meeting

A Board Meeting agenda will be available 10 days before the meeting at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar/.

- Participate in person to observe or provide a comment:
1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
- Submit an online speaker card if you wish to provide a public comment at the Board meeting in person or remotely: bit.ly/speaker-card-form. The form accepts responses a few days prior to the Board meeting. The Board Clerk will provide instructions to join Zoom in advance of the meeting. For more information about participating remotely at a Board meeting, please visit bit.ly/providingcomments.
- For those who only wish to watch the meeting, the webcast remains available at either youtube.com/user/BoardWebSupport or video.calepa.ca.gov (closed captioning available) and should be used UNLESS you intend to comment.

The State Water Board held two prior written comment periods from June 28 to September 13, 2024 and from March 28 to April 29, 2025. Written comments will not be accepted. Oral public comments may be made at the Board meeting in accordance with the instructions above.

Language Services

This meeting will be offered in English. To request translation of a written document, interpretation services for the meeting, or sign language services please use one of the following options at least ten (10) business days before the meeting, if possible:

- Submit an online request: bit.ly/LanguageAccessForm
- Call (916) 341-5254
- Email languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov

Contact us to request information in your language.

Contáctenos para solicitar información en su idioma.

Liên hệ chúng tôi để yêu cầu thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của quý vị.

귀하의 언어로 작성된 정보를 요청하려면 저희에게 문의하십시오.

ਆਪਣੇ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸਭ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Makipag-ugnayan sa amin para humiling ng impormasyon sa iyong wika.

请联系我们，以您的语言获取相关信息。

Accessibility & Reasonable Accommodations

Users of a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or the teletype (TTY) voice line at (800) 735-2922.

Any person who requires reasonable accommodation to participate in the meeting should email contact@waterboards.ca.gov or call (916) 341-5254, at least ten (10) business days prior to the meeting. Learn more about accessibility within Zoom at www.zoom.com/en/accessibility.

Building and Parking Information

- Directions to the Joe Serna, Jr. (CalEPA) Building and public parking information: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/headquarters-sacramento/location/>.
- Visitors to the CalEPA Building are required to sign in and obtain a badge at the Visitor Services Center located just inside the main entrance on 10th Street.
- Please allow 5 to 10 minutes to receive security clearance.

Background

California has had an increase in wildfire intensity and frequency in recent years due to drought, tree mortality due to pests, climate change, fuel accumulation, and long-term fire suppression. One of the drivers of wildfire in California has been ignition sources associated with the electrical power grid. The California Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 901 on August 31, 2018, which imposed additional requirements on for wildfire mitigation plans developed by utilities.

This General Order covers electric utility company wildfire risk mitigation, response, and cleanup activities listed in the Project Description that discharge or propose to discharge waste that could affect the quality of the waters of the state. The General Order also covers electric utility infrastructure operations and maintenance activities listed in the Project Description that are not directly related to wildfire that discharge or propose to discharge waste that could affect the quality of waters of the state because such activities have similar potential effects on water quality. This General Order is both (1) a Clean Water Act section 401 Certification and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for projects that include the discharge of dredged or fill material, and (2) Waste Discharge Requirements for projects that discharge or propose to discharge waste, other than dredged or fill material, that could affect the quality of surface waters of the state.

The General Order would provide an expedited process for permit coverage of utility activities to support essential wildfire prevention and mitigation activities and operations and maintenance activities, while protecting water quality.

Stay Informed

Subscribe to receive email notifications to the CWA401 – Certification and Wetlands Program https://waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/

Enter your email address and password and select the submit button. If this is your first time subscribing to a Water Boards email subscription list, you will have to register and create a password.

Any person interested in receiving additional information about the General Order including any change to the date, time, or meeting location in this public notice should subscribe to the email distribution list.

Contact Information

- Staff contact: Robert Stoddard at Robert.Stoddard@waterboards.ca.gov or 916-327-8681.
- Program contact: dwq-sb-401application@waterboards.ca.gov or 916-341-5900
- Website: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/

Date July 17, 2026



Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board