
State Water Resources Control Board

**NOTICE OF SOLICITATION OF NOMINATIONS FOR EXPERT PANEL
AND FORMATION AND MEETING OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD CHAPTER 1 OF THE SECOND
EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF 2008 (SBX2 1, PERATA) REPORT TO THE
LEGISLATURE – RECOMMENDATION 14
EXPERT PANEL AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE FORMATION**

Advisory Committee Kickoff Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2014 – 1:30 p.m.
Joe Serna Jr. - Cal/EPA Headquarters Building
Sierra Hearing Room
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is soliciting nominations for an Expert Panel and announcing the formation and meeting of an Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee meeting will be led by staff of the State Water Board. A quorum of Board members of the State Water Board may be in attendance and participate in the Advisory Committee meeting, however, no Board action will be taken at this meeting.

Background

Chapter 1 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2008 (SBX2 1, Perata), required the State Water Board to develop pilot projects focusing on nitrate in groundwater in the Tulare Lake Basin and Salinas Valley, and to submit a report to the Legislature on the scope and findings of the pilot projects, including recommendations. The State Water Board made 15 recommendations in 4 key areas to address the issues associated with nitrate contaminated groundwater. The key areas to address these issues are:

1. Providing safe drinking water.
2. Monitoring, notification, and assessment.
3. Nitrogen tracking and reporting.
4. Protecting groundwater.

The State Water Board is publishing this notice to solicit nominations for an Expert Panel and announce the formation of an Advisory Committee. Anyone is eligible to nominate members to the Expert Panel or to join the Advisory Committee. Self-nominations will be accepted.

Expert Panel

Recommendation 14 of the State Water Board's report to the Legislature was to convene a panel of experts to assess existing agricultural nitrate control programs and develop recommendations, as needed, to ensure that ongoing efforts are protective of groundwater supply quality. The State Water Board has contracted with the Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC), a center established with the BioResource and Agricultural Engineering Department of the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo to assemble the expert panel of up to 10 persons. Recommended Expert Panel types will include, but not be limited to:

- Irrigation Specialist /Ag Engineer – specializing in irrigation systems including drip, sprinkler, furrow, and flood irrigation systems and the use of fertigation.
- Soil Scientist - specializing in soil conservation, soil fertility management and movement of water and nitrogen through the soil.
- Hydrogeologist - specializing in aquifer contamination and contaminate movement within groundwater.
- Certified Crop Advisor – specializing in the application of synthetic and organic fertilizers.
- UC Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor – specializing in annual and perennial crops.
- Grower – experience in both annual and perennial crops.
- Agronomist – specializing in California agricultural production, nutrient uptake and yields.
- Agricultural Economist – specializing in economic analysis of California agriculture with some experience in the economic analysis of air and water quality regulations.

Role of Expert Panel

The role of Expert Panel Members is as follows:

- Review the Water Boards' Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.
- Evaluate ongoing agricultural control measures that address nitrate in groundwater and surface water.
- Evaluate and address other risks to water quality posed by agricultural practices.
- Address questions posed by the State Water Board in its order regarding the petitions of the Central Coast Water Board.
- Address questions developed by an Advisory Committee, other agencies and the public as approved by the State Water Board.
- Propose new agricultural control measures, if necessary.
- Hold meetings with the Advisory Committee as necessary.
- Conduct three public meetings to take public comment.
- Prepare Final Report on findings and summary of project discoveries and recommendations.

Advisory Committee

In addition to the Expert Panel, the State Water Board is forming an Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will be tasked with reviewing proposed questions submitted by the public and recommending which questions should be addressed by the Expert Panel. The Advisory Committee may also develop its own questions. The questions developed by the Advisory Committee will be related to protecting groundwater and should include, but not be limited to:

- What improvements can be made in existing agricultural nitrate control programs?
- How would the suggested improvements be best implemented?
- What would be the best method of evaluating the effectiveness of existing permits to address nitrate contamination in high-risk areas of the state?

Anyone is eligible to participate in the Advisory Committee. The kickoff Advisory Committee meeting will be held on March 10, 2014 at 1:30 p.m., at the Cal/EPA Building in the Sierra Hearing Room.

Parking, Accessibility and Security

The Cal/EPA Building is accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations at the Cal/EPA Building are requested to contact Tanya Cole, Equal Employment Opportunity Office, at (916) 341-5880.

Due to enhanced security precautions at the Cal/EPA Building, all visitors are required to register with security staff prior to attending any meeting. To sign in and receive a visitor's badge, visitors must go to the Visitor and Environmental Services Center, located just inside and to the left of the building's public entrance. Depending on their destination and the building's security level, visitors may be asked to show valid picture identification. Valid picture identification can take the form of a current driver's license, military identification card, or state or federal identification card. Depending on the size and number of meetings scheduled on any given day, the security check-in could take up to fifteen minutes. Please allow adequate time to sign in before being directed to the hearing.

Submission of Expert Panel Nominations and Advisory Committee Questions

Nominations for the Expert Panel should include: (1) The nominee's full name, title, institutional affiliation, and contact information; (2) the nominee's area(s) of expertise; and (3) a description of the nominee's qualifications. Inclusion of a Curriculum Vitae or resume is desirable.

The State Water Board will accept written nominations to the Expert Panel and Advisory Committee questions. Nominations and questions must be received by **12:00 noon on Friday, March 7, 2014** and addressed to:

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

Nominations and Questions may be submitted electronically, in pdf text format (if less than 15 megabytes in total size), to the Clerk to the Board via e-mail at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov.

If the file is greater than 15 megabytes in total size, then the document(s) may be submitted by fax at (916) 341-5620. Please indicate the subject line: **“Expert Panel Nomination(s)” or “Advisory Committee Questions”**, as applicable.

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

Please direct questions about this notice to Johnny Gonzales at (916) 341-5510 or Ashley Zellmer at (916) 341-5911.

Schedule (some dates may be changed at a later date and all changes will be noticed).

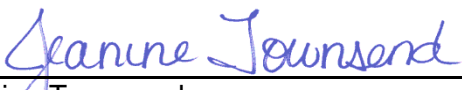
March 7, 2014	Final date to submit Expert Panel nominations and suggested questions. Must be received by 12:00 noon.
May 5 – May 9, 2014	Expert Panel Public Meetings (details will be provided in separate public notice).
June 30, 2014	Draft Report released.
July 1 – July 30, 2014	Public comment period on Draft Report.
July 18, 2014	Expert Panel Public Meeting on Draft Report.
September 23, 2014	Expert Panel presents Final Report at Board Meeting.

Project Tools and Information

Project information, including meeting notices, agendas, meeting minutes, and other pertinent material/documents will be posted online at <http://www.itrc.org/001/swrcb.htm>. This webpage will be managed by the ITRC and once nominations have been reviewed and the selection finalized, a list of the individuals selected to the Expert Panel will be posted.

February 19, 2014

Date



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board