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IN SAN BENITO COUNTY



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

AUG 31 2017
KRISTINA TEDESCO
JOE PAUL GONZALEZ, COUNTY CLERK
BY *Kristina Tedesco*
DEPUTY CLERK



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT,
PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION MEETING**

**STATEWIDE GENERAL ORDER FOR DISCHARGES FROM
HYDROSTATIC TESTING OF NATURAL GAS PIPELINES
AND RELATED ACTIVITIES**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will receive public comment on the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and the proposed Statewide General Order for Discharges from Hydrostatic Testing of Natural Gas Pipelines and Related Activities.

The State Water Board will hold a public hearing on:

Tuesday, October 3, 2017 – 9:30 a.m.
Joe Serna Jr. – CalEPA Headquarters Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

The State Water Board will consider approval of the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and adoption of the proposed General Order on:

Tuesday, December 5, 2017 – 9:30 a.m.
Joe Serna Jr. – CalEPA Headquarters Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

BACKGROUND

Natural gas transmission and use are vital to California residents and the state economy. Natural gas companies and their contractors construct, operate, and maintain pipelines and appurtenances for the transmission and distribution of natural gas to industrial, commercial and residential customers. The companies conduct mandatory inspection and testing to ensure public health and safety. The proposed General Order will regulate discharges due to excavation, construction, testing, and repair activities that may pose a threat to beneficial uses of waters of the U.S., non-federal surface waters of the state, and groundwater. The proposed General Order does not authorize discharges from any facilities associated with fracking and fracking-related operations.

SAN BENITO COUNTY CLERK - RECORDER
RECEIVED: 8-31-17
REMOVE: 10-31-17 SCAN: 9-6-17

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, proposed General Order, and related documents are available to view or download on the State Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/npdes/natural_gas/.

Interested persons may request a paper copy by contacting Erling Rockwell at (916) 341-5478 or erling.rockwell@waterboards.ca.gov.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The State Water Board will accept written comments on the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and the proposed General Order. Written comments must be received by **12:00 noon on October 10, 2017** and must be addressed to:

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

Comment letters may be submitted electronically, in PDF text format (if less than 15 megabytes in total size), to the Clerk to the Board via email at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. Please indicate the subject line: **“Comment Letter – Draft Statewide General Order for Discharges from Hydrostatic Testing of Pipelines and Related Activities.”**

Persons delivering hard copies of comment letters must check in with lobby security personnel, who can contact Jeanine Townsend at (916) 341-5600.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING

This notice provides a 30-day public review period of the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and the proposed General Order. The public hearing scheduled above is within the public comment period to allow interested parties the opportunity to provide oral comments to the State Water Board in addition to written comments.

At the public hearing, participants will have an opportunity to present oral comments to the State Water Board. Oral presentations may be time-limited to ensure a productive and efficient hearing in which all participants have an opportunity to participate. Participants planning to use a PowerPoint presentation must submit the file electronically, in PPT format, to the Clerk via email at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov, no later than **12:00 noon on September 28, 2017**. Please indicate in the subject line **“PowerPoint Presentation – Hearing for Draft General Order for Discharges from Hydrostatic Testing of Pipelines and Related Activities.”**

PROCEDURAL MATTERS FOR THE ADOPTION MEETING

At the Board meeting to consider approval of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and the adoption of the proposed General Order, participants will be given an opportunity to summarize and supplement their written materials with oral presentations. No new evidence (e.g. photographs, data, testimony) may be submitted at the adoption meeting, and comments will be limited to changes made to the final draft documents as a result of comments received during the written comment period and October 3, 2017 hearing. To ensure a productive and efficient meeting in which all participants have an opportunity to participate, oral presentations may be time-limited.

For other presentation recommendations, go to:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/meetings/board_presentations.shtml at the State Water Board's website.

EX PARTE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR PENDING GENERAL ORDERS

This item is subject to the ex parte communication disclosure requirements of Water Code section 13287, as explained in

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/docs/exparte.pdf. Any communications between interested persons and Board members (other than at a noticed Board meeting or submitted as a comment letter in compliance with the public notice) must be disclosed by the interested person within seven days of the communication. Sample disclosure forms are available at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/docs/swrcb_godf_fillin.pdf.

Beginning **Wednesday, November 21, 2017**, ex parte communications between interested persons and Board members concerning this item are prohibited.

FUTURE NOTICES

Any person desiring to receive future public notices regarding the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and the proposed General Order, including any changes to this public notice, must subscribe to the Lyris list described below. To sign up for the Lyris list, access the E-mail List Subscription form at:

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

Enter your email address and full name in the required spaces. Under the Water Quality title bar, check the box for "Gas Utilities Statewide General NPDES Permit." Finally, click on the Subscribe button to the right of the location in which your email address and full name were entered.

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

For directions to the CalEPA Building and public parking information, please refer to the map on the State Water Board web site at: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/headquarters-sacramento/location/>.

The CalEPA Building is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to call (916) 341-5881 at least five working days prior to the meeting. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

An audio broadcast of the hearing and of the adoption meeting will be available via the Internet and can be accessed at: <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/>.

All 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 (10th Street entrance). Valid picture identification may be required. Please allow up to 15 minutes for receiving security clearance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct questions about this notice to Erling Rockwell at (916) 341-5478 or erling.rockwell@waterboards.ca.gov.

August 25, 2017

Date



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board

State Water Resources Control Board

August 23, 2017

Office of the Clerk of San Benito County
440 5th St., #206
Hollister, CA 95023-3843

TRANSMITTAL OF A NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND A STATEWIDE GENERAL ORDER FOR DISCHARGES FROM HYDROSTATIC TESTING OF NATURAL GAS PIPELINES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

As required by Public Resources Code, section 21092, and California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15072, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is hereby transmitting a *Notice of Public Hearing and Notice of Intent To Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and a Statewide General Order for Discharges from Hydrostatic Testing of Natural Gas Pipelines and Related Activities* (NOPH/NOI) for posting in the County Clerk's office for a period of 30 days. Please display the NOPH/NOI with the other California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) notices your office posts, and remove them no sooner than 30 days later.

Pursuant to California Government Code, section 6103, "Neither the state. . . nor any public officer or body, acting in his or her official capacity on behalf of the state. . . shall pay or deposit any fee for the filing of any document or paper, for the performance of any official service." Therefore, payment of a fee is not required for posting the notice.

The adoption of the General Order involves a discretionary action by the State Water Board; therefore, it is considered a project and is subject to environmental review pursuant to CEQA. The State Water Board is the lead agency for the CEQA evaluation.

If you have any questions regarding this transmittal, please contact me by e-mail at erling.rockwell@waterboards.ca.gov, or by phone at (916) 341-5478.

Erling Rockwell
State Water Resources Control Board

Enc.: Notice of Public Hearing and Notice of Intent
Dist: California County Clerks

