

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Francisco Bay Region  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, CA 94612

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE  
Nutrients Watershed Permit**

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) is the California state agency responsible for protecting, restoring, and maintaining water quality in the San Francisco Bay Region. The Water Board invites you to engage on a draft permit that proposes to reissue our Nutrients Watershed Permit that regulates municipal wastewater treatment plants that discharge to San Francisco Bay or its tributaries. Figure 1 contains the locations of all of the municipal wastewater treatment plants covered by this permit. The draft permit contains new requirements intended to prevent algae blooms that can lead to significant fish kills, such as the bloom that occurred in July and August 2022.

The draft permit would require municipal wastewater treatment plants to significantly reduce the amount of nitrogen (nitrates, nitrites, and ammonia) they discharge. To reduce nutrient loads, the draft permit would encourage municipalities to implement “green” solutions, like natural systems (e.g., wetlands) and wastewater recycling – opportunities that can provide multiple benefits beyond nutrient removal (e.g., protection against sea level rise, removal of contaminants of emerging concern, and addition of drought resistant water supplies). The draft permit would also require municipalities to continue supporting scientific studies to characterize San Francisco Bay’s response to nutrient loads. Because these requirements will require municipalities to invest significant resources to upgrade their treatment facilities, the draft permit provides dischargers up to 10 years to implement these changes.

The Water Board is holding a workshop to explain the content of this permit and provide an opportunity for disadvantaged communities and tribal communities to ask questions and provide input to the permit reissuance process. The **workshop will be held virtually via Zoom March 5, 2024, from 9:30-11:30AM. Please RSVP** if you intend to attend the workshop by contacting **Robert Schlipf** at **(510) 622-2478** or [robert.schlipf@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:robert.schlipf@waterboards.ca.gov).

In addition to this opportunity to engage, you may also submit comments on the draft permit during the 30-day public comment period that will begin in March/April 2024. The Water Board will provide responses to all written comments. A separate notice will be distributed when the draft permit is released for public comment.

If you do not want to receive notifications on this matter or if you have any questions, please contact **Robert Schlipf** at **(510) 622-2478** or [robert.schlipf@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:robert.schlipf@waterboards.ca.gov).

Figure 1 – Map of Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plan Outfall Locations

## Municipal Discharger outfall locations

