



Good Afternoon,

Please find below regulatory updates from January and for February.

Our next workgroup meetings will be through Zoom on Thursday, February 18. Please pass along items you would like agendaized, and let us know if you have any problems accessing these hyperlinked materials.

Thank you,  
The RWG Team

## WATER QUALITY

### **Toxicity Provisions Cerio Study Request & Stakeholder Advisory Committee Update**

On January 20, [CASA reached out to our members](#) to request funding commitments or in-kind lab contributions to support [the current SCCWRP study](#) for developing quality assurance recommendations for the ceriodaphnia dubia toxicity test. This endeavor provides a unique opportunity to CASA members to shape the final report through the scoping of the study by putting forward additional elements we want included in the study workplan and providing in-kind lab services and/or monetary contributions to ensure their delivery.

Also on [January 20, the Stakeholder Committee](#) for the Cerio Study met to discuss the scope and workplan and to endorse their selections for the Science Advisory Panel. The selections for the Science Advisory Panel have now been released, and they are Robert Brent, Howard Bailey, Teresa Norberg-King, Leana Van der Vliet, and John Bailer. The Stakeholder Subcommittee is expected to meet again later in February.

Please reach out to [Jared Voskuhl](#) with questions about participation, updates, or your interest to be involved.

### **PFAS Regional Water Board Updates – North Coast (R1) & Santa Ana (R8)**

On February 4 and 5, the North Coast Region 1 and Santa Ana Region 8 Water Boards, respectively, will receive PFAS related updates by staff from the State and Regional Water Boards. For [the Region 1 agenda](#), the update will come during [Item 6](#) and feature a report out on the California Water Boards' PFAS Investigation. For [the Region 8 agenda](#), the update will be heard on [Item 13](#), and Staff will provide the status of PFAS investigations in the Santa Ana

Region and some of the challenges in characterizing and cleaning up the contamination, in addition to a description of the background and historical use of PFAS, the federal and state regulatory standards for PFAS in drinking water, the available analytical and treatment methods, the evolving regulatory actions by California agencies, and the Water Board's state-wide investigations of PFAS impacts from a variety of sources.

### **OPC Meeting on February 16**

On February 16, the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) will hold their first meeting since September 2020. The agenda is available [here](#), and it is scheduled to feature the Top 10 recommendations of the Natural Resources Agency and Environmental Protection Agency for addressing plastic pollution in California's coastal and marine ecosystems. This document has not been released yet, but written comments on it or any other agendas items should be submitted by 9 AM on February 15, 2021 to this [address](#). Please reach out to [Jared Voskuhl](#) with questions.

### **CASA Submits Remarks to the OPC Research Team for Microplastics POTW Study**

On February 3, [CASA submitted recommendations](#) to the Ocean Protection Council's research team who are working on the June 2020 funded research of microplastics treatment removal efficiency of POTWs. Thank you to Shelly Walther and Violet Renick for their technical contributions and composition of our comment letter. We aim to meet with the researchers in the coming months, as their workplan is developed and finalized. Please reach out to CASA's [Alma Musvosvi](#) to be added to our Microplastics Subgroup, which is meeting next on February 9 at 3:00 PM.

### **CASA and WateReuse Submit Comment to SWB on Annual Volumetric Survey**

On January 29, WateReuse California (WRCA) and CASA [submitted a comment letter](#) to the State Water Board, to follow-up on the recent [informational item](#) that came before the Board on January 5 featuring the results of the first annual volumetric survey for wastewater and recycled water. Please contact [Jennifer West](#) of WRCA to follow-up about her outreach and next steps, and a big thank you to her and her team for leading the efforts addressed in the letter and preparing the correspondence to the State.

### **CASA Submits Comments to US EPA on NWRAP Action 2.2.6**

On January 22, CASA [submitted comments](#) and [provided markup](#) on the draft Questions and Answers document for US EPA's National Water Reuse Action Plan Action 2.2.6 about permitting reuse projects. Dave Smith with US EPA Region 9 will be processing the feedback he received over the coming month, and we expect a spring meeting to go onto next steps.

Related to the NWRAP, there will be a Stormwater Capture webinar in association with Action 2.3.3, for which you may register [here](#). The program will feature stormwater management leaders from around the US discussing stormwater capture motivations and drivers, barriers to progress, and future directions. The audience will learn about the different motivators, unique strategies, and opportunities to market and advance stormwater capture across the U.S. Please reach out to [Jared Voskuhl](#) with questions about these items.

### **State Water Board Hearing on City of Oceanside and Fallbrook PUD Permits**

On February 16, the State Water Board will hold a hearing on their [Draft Order](#) pertaining to the Petitions for Review of a batch of permits the San Diego Regional Water Board adopted last year, which impose a bevy of new obligations on the City of Oceanside and Fallbrook Public Utilities District that may total nearly two million dollars in new costs over the permits' terms and feature extensive and novel monitoring requirements for HF 183 and bacteria monitoring and plume tracking. [Comment letters are due](#) by noon on Monday, February 8, and CASA is preparing to submit remarks. Please reach out to [Melissa Thorne](#) with Downey Brand with questions or if interested in the proceedings.

### **Water Quality Fees Stakeholder Meeting – PFAS Site Cleanup BCP**

[On February 18](#), the State Water Board will host a stakeholder meeting for the waste discharge

permit fund and associated water quality fees for fiscal year 2021-22. The supporting materials have not been released, but the Governor's January budget was released last month. Based on projections from last year, an initial increase of 8.9% in fees is anticipated this year, beyond other increases derived from Budget Change Proposals (BCPs).

You may download the current index of BCPs [here](#) from the Department of Finance which the Administration will submit to the Legislature, or search the database [here](#). Upon review, there are 5 listed at the State Water Board (numbers 213 – 217), 3 of which are notable because they are sourced to water quality fees: [Industrial Stormwater Dischargers](#) (6 FTE / \$951k), [Wastewater Operator Computer-Based Certification](#) (\$150k annually), and a PFAS “[Site Cleanup Program Investigation and Cleanup](#)” (21 FTE / \$4.2m annually) focused on sites such as airports, chrome plating facilities, bulk fuel terminals and refineries.

We'll reach out to our Fees Subgroup when the meeting materials are released, so please contact [Alma Musvosvi](#) if you want to be included on the distribution list.

#### **CWSRF and WIFIA Webinar on American Iron and Steel Requirements**

On February 9, US EPA is hosting a webinar for the State Revolving Fund (SRF) and Water Infrastructure Financing Innovation Act (WIFIA) programs pertaining to the American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements. A flyer is available [here](#), and you may register [here](#). The topics to be discussed include AIS requirements, roles and responsibilities, project and product coverage, documenting compliance, waivers, and AIS resources. Agencies receiving SRF or WIFIA funds must comply with the mandates to buy American iron and steel, and this webinar will provide detailed information to ensure fulfillment of obligations. For more information, visit the [US EPA's program page](#).

#### **US EPA Releases ANPRM for PFOA and PFOS under CERCLA**

On January 14, [US EPA released](#) an [Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for PFOA and PFOS](#) (ANPRM) to seek public comments and data to assist in the consideration of potential development of future regulations pertaining to PFOA and PFOS under CERCLA. Comments will be due 60-days after publication in the Federal Register, and CASA plans to coordinate with NACWA and our member agencies, as our sector was identified amongst five broad categories of entities potentially affected. Please reach out to [Jared Voskuhl](#) with your input or commentary.

#### **US EPA PFAS Destruction Technologies Webinar**

On February 17, US EPA will host a webinar on PFAS destruction technologies. In working to find solutions to address PFAS issues in communities across the nation, US EPA established their PFAS Innovative Treatment Team (PITT) to concentrate on exploring disposal and destruction options for PFAS-contaminated waste. During the PITT's operation, the team worked together to (1) assess current and emerging PFAS destruction technologies being explored by EPA, universities, other research organizations and industry, (2) explore the efficacy of these PFAS destruction technologies, including consideration of potentially hazardous byproducts, and (3) evaluate the feasibility, performance and cost of various PFAS destruction methods to better understand potential solutions. The presentation later this month will highlight the results of the PITT's research and next steps for PFAS waste treatment technologies. You may register [here](#).

#### **Central Valley Salt Control Program Webinar on February 10**

On February 10, the Central Valley Salinity Coalition will host a [webinar for the Salt Control Program](#), as permittees must select their salt control permitting pathway by July 15, 2021. You may register for it [here](#). If you have recently received a salt control program Notice to Comply, this event will provide information about the new requirements and your compliance choices. The programming will include an overview of the CV-SALTS program, compliance options, salinity studies and management options, the fee structure, and a Q&A opportunity. Please reach out to [Debbie Webster](#) with questions or for further details.

#### **CWQMC Meeting on February 11**

On February 11, the California Water Quality Monitoring Council will hold its quarterly meeting, which will be the first for new Council co-chair, the OPC's Mark Gold. The meeting Notice is available [here](#), and there will be updates on several items of interest, including wastewater-based epidemiology. Please reach out to [Shelly Walther](#) (Council Representative) and [Jared Voskuhl](#) (Alternate) with questions or remarks.

### **US EPA Webinar on Coastal Acidification Now Available Online**

At the beginning of December, US EPA hosted a webinar on ocean and coastal acidification (OCA). During the event, five speakers presented on several topics including, OCA impacts and mitigation strategies, seagrass restoration, and refugia restoration. You now may access the recordings, which are available [here](#). Please reach out to [Alma Musvosvi](#) to be added to our Ocean Acidification Subgroup.

### **BACWA 2021 Annual Meeting**

On February 19, the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) will host their annual meeting virtually. The program is [here](#), and you may register [here](#). Please reach out to [Mary Cousins](#) with questions!

### **NACWA Winter Conference 2021**

On February 24 and 25, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) will conduct their winter conference virtually. The program is [here](#), and you may find the link to register [here](#).

### **SWB 3-Yr Policies Calendar and 2021 Strategic Workplan**

This winter, the State Water Board has released two comprehensive planning documents, their [2021 Strategic Work Plan](#) and their [2021-2023 Statewide & Regional Water Policies](#) table with contemporary updates about the latest status for numerous programs. Our Regulatory Workgroup's Water Committee will take up these two items at their February 18 meeting, to discuss the Board's planned schedule to move on multiple items of interest to CASA members. As you're able, please reach out to [Jared Voskuhl](#) with you thoughts or comments about the information contained within these materials.

### **SWB Meeting Agendas and Executive Director's Reports**

Here are the recent State Water Board agendas for their meetings on [January 5](#) (volumetric annual reporting for wastewater and recycled water), [January 19 & 20](#) (WDR for winery process water), and [February 2](#) (total coliform rule). The Executive Director reports are available for [December](#) (statewide and regional policies and significant general permits) and [January](#) (WBE, toxicity study kick-off meeting).

## **BIOSOLIDS**

### **CASA Hosts SB 1383 Webinar with CalRecycle**

On January 21, CASA and CalRecycle hosted a webinar to discuss the recently approved regulations to implement SB 1383. Thank you to those who were able to participate, but if you missed it, the session was recorded and is available at this [link](#), with the presentation slide deck available [here](#), and the Q&A from the event available [here](#). CalRecycle's [SB 1383 homepage](#) also provides new resources, including numerous [FAQs](#) on different elements and [Model Tools](#). Please reach out to [Greg Kester](#) if you have further questions.

### **CalRecycle To Host SB 1383 Regional and Statewide Webinars**

On February 2, CalRecycle kicked off their SB 1383 Q&A Regional Webinar Series taking place during February and March, in coordination with HF&H Consultants. Each regional webinar will be 3-hours and cover collection (Article 3), procurement, and edible food recovery requirements.

Each topic will be covered for one hour and most of the time will be open for stakeholders to ask questions. Please note you are not limited to only attending your region's webinar; you may attend others as well. Formal agendas will be announced closer to the dates.

Additionally, on February 4, CalRecycle will also host one statewide webinar to cover solid waste facility requirements and related questions. This will include a short presentation covering the requirements with the remaining time available for questions. If there are any questions you would like to send prior to one of the webinars, please submit them to the [SLCP inbox](#) with the subject line: "[Insert Region] Regional Webinar Question" or "Solid Waste Facility Statewide Webinar Question."

#### Regional Webinars Dates and Times:

- [Central Valley](#): February 2, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- [Statewide Solid Waste Facilities](#): February 4, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
- [Los Angeles and Orange Counties](#): February 10, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- [Southern California](#): February 18, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- [Bay Area](#): March 11, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- [Central Coast](#): March 25, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- [Northern California](#): March 30, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

The GoToWebinar links are embedded for each of the dates above, but for those who only wish to watch the webinar, the customary webcast remains available [here](#) and should be used unless you intend to comment or provide questions during the webinar, in which case you should use the GoToWebinar for the respective session you are interested in attending. (The webinars also will be recorded and posted on the web as an additional implementation resource.) We will look forward to hearing the report outs from these meetings during our February workgroup meeting. Please reach out to [Greg Kester](#) with questions.

#### **CASA Submits Comments on US EPA's Interim Guidance on PFAS Destruction and Disposal**

On January 22, CASA submitted [comments](#) on EPA's [Interim Guidance](#) on PFAS Destruction and Disposal. Comments will be accepted up to February 22, however the land application of biosolids is not within the scope of this document and the interim guidance does not say anything about biosolids management except in the rare, contaminated situation. To be sure, they do not indicate any level of PFAS for which mitigation is necessary, leaving it to others, and instead only offers options for biosolids for which it has been determined mitigation is required. Please reach out to [Greg Kester](#) with your thoughts or questions.

#### **Peer Reviewed Rebuttal Letter Published on Misguided COVID Article**

On December 31, the journal *Science of the Total Environment* published this [rebuttal letter](#) in response to an [article](#) alleging danger to marine mammals from SARS-CoV-2 released to marine environments from wastewater. The rebuttal letter took exception to many of the points in the article, while acknowledging the need to ensure protection for all marine life. Many thanks to Jessica Gauger for bringing the original article to Greg Kester's attention, to Rasha Maal-Bared (EPCOR) for her leadership in drafting the rebuttal, and to all of our co-authors, each listed in the letter. Please let [Greg](#) know if you have any questions or comments.

#### **CASA-CWEA COVID Webinar on January 27**

On January 27, [CWEA and CASA hosted another webinar](#) on wastewater based epidemiology, with presentations by the CDC's Dr. Amy Kirby, amongst others. Please reach out to [Greg Kester](#) with topics you are interested in hearing about at the next event in this series.

#### **WEF Announces New Director of Sustainable Biosolids Programs**

On January 21, after a multi-month search, the Water Environment Federation (WEF) announced that Maile Lono-Batura was selected as their new Director of Sustainable Biosolids Programs. Maile previously served as the longtime executive director of the Northwest Biosolids

and will transition into her new role in mid-March. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with Maile as she begins her new role as a national leader in biosolids!

## **NW Biosolids Library**

The first research library of 2021 from Dr. Sally Brown and NW Biosolids is available [here](#). This month's topic is fecal indicator bacteria and the potential pathogenic contributions from stormwater and wastewater to oceans and fresh water. The introduction to the articles is available [here](#). If you would like the complete articles, please contact [Greg Kester](#).

## DATES

Feb. 2 SWB Meeting

Feb. 3 US EPA WaterReuse Stormwater Capture Webinar

Feb. 4 R1 RWB Meeting (PFAS Update)

Feb. 5 CASA Attorneys Committee

Feb. 5 R8 RWB Meeting (PFAS Update)

Feb. 9 CWQMC Environmental Flows Workgroup

Feb. 9 US EPA SRF & WIFI Webinar on AIS

Feb. 10 Central Valley Salt Control Program

Feb. 11	CWQMC Meeting
Feb. 16	SWB Meeting
Feb. 16	OPC Meeting ( <a href="#">Agenda</a> )
Feb. 16	SWB Hearing on Oceanside/Fallbrook Permits
Feb. 17	US EPA PFAS Destruction Technologies Webinar
Feb. 18	CASA Regulatory Workgroup
Feb. 18	SWB WQ Fees Workshop
Feb. 19	BACWA Annual Meeting (Virtual)
Feb. 24-25	NACWA Winter Conference (Virtual)
Feb. 25	CASA ACE Workgroup

Mar. 2

SWB Meeting

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Mar. 5

SCCWRP Commission (Ocean Acidification)

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