



Insight on Onsite: State Board Holds First Public Hearing on May 8

On Thursday, May 8, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) staff conducted a California Administrative Procedure Act (APA) public hearing. The APA establishes rulemaking procedures and standards for state agencies in California. The hearing began with a [staff presentation](#) summarizing the proposed regulations, followed by an opportunity for public comment. WaterReuse California (WRCA) provided verbal comments at the hearing and following the hearing within the comment period; click [here](#) to read the joint comment letter submitted by WRCA, the California Association of Sanitation Agencies and the Association of California Water Agencies. WaterReuse California testified to reaffirm its commitment to effective standards that support onsite water reuse where appropriate, in coordination with municipal wastewater and recycled water operations. The organization also provided specific recommendations on the proposed regulation text.

State Board staff will review the comments they received and will determine if changes to the proposed regulation text are needed. Additionally, there will be a subsequent public comment period for any changes to the proposed regulation text; no timeline is available at this time for this next step.

Background

On Friday, March 21, 2025, the State Board released the [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) regarding the long anticipated Onsite Treatment and Reuse of Nonpotable Water Regulations. WaterReuse California's Legislative-Regulatory Committee reviewed and analyzed the [Text of the Proposed Regulation](#).

As signed into law, [Senate Bill 966 \(Weiner, 2018\)](#) requires that local jurisdictions that wish to establish an onsite reuse program first adopt a local program through a local ordinance. SB 966 also requires local jurisdictions that do not provide water or sewer services to consult with agencies that provide water and sewer services within the jurisdiction boundaries prior to adopting a program to ensure there are no adverse impacts to the sewer collection system, planned recycled water projects, or receiving waters. The onsite reuse local program adoption and consultation [requirements](#) from the original bill remain key as we continue to see a significant reduction in wastewater flows statewide.

California Water Code section 13558 requires the State Board to adopt regulations for risk-based water quality standards for the onsite treatment and reuse of nonpotable water for nonpotable end uses in multifamily residential, commercial, and mixed-use buildings.

The State Board has already provided a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document that was originally made available in 2022 but remains a great resource. The entire rulemaking but the process takes a year.

For more information, please [email](#) Rosario Cortés, WateReuse California Manager of Regulatory Affairs.