

State Water Board Update

1) San Joaquin River Flow and South Delta Salinity

The State Water Board is tentatively planning to hold a workshop regarding the technical basis for evaluating San Joaquin River flow and southern Delta salinity objective alternatives. The workshop is tentatively scheduled for mid-December, 2010. A public notice including the specific date(s) and location will be issued prior to the workshop. At this workshop, the State Water Board does not intend to identify the precise objectives to be analyzed during the environmental review process. Instead the workshop will focus on the scientific basis and technical methodology for evaluating the objective alternatives. Accordingly, the workshop will not be the final opportunity to comment on potential objectives.

For further information on this workshop, contact Mark Gowdy at 341-5432 or mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov

2) Modeling

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) are providing modeling assistance to the State Water Board in the following areas:

- a) DWR has developed a plan to address our request for improvements to the salinity simulation performance of the DSM2 model in the southern Delta. The request was made as a follow-up to the recent CDO adopted by the Board in January (WR 2010-0002). We are evaluating the proposed plan and work has not started yet.
- b) DWR is providing modeling runs to evaluate potential improvements to flows and salinity in the southern Delta associated with proposed changes to the temporary ag barriers down there (adding height and changing flap-gate operations). This is being done as part of the coordination effort between DWR and the South Delta Water Agency we requested as part of approving an emergency change petition back in the summer of 2008.
- c) USBR is working on a scope of work to provide us with some CALSIM modeling that would evaluate possible alternative flow objectives for the San Joaquin River at Vernalis. Like item a) above this modeling support was requested as part of Order WR 2010-0002. The scope of work is still in development with USBR and work has not started.

For further information on Modeling, contact Mark Gowdy at 341-5432 or mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov

3) Water Transfer Petitions

TRANSFER NOTICE

9/28/10, Notice issued for long-term transfer of 10,000 acre-feet of water from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to areas within the Westlands Water District. The petitioner requests the changes be effective from May 11, 2011 to April 30, 2027. DWR has petitioned for temporary transfers (up to one year) similar to this long-term transfer on an annual basis since 2001 (except for 2003). The protest period for this petition ends on October 28, 2010. The notice is available for viewing online at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/transfers_tu_notices/

PENDING ORDER

The comment period ended on Oct. 18, 2010 for the Consolidated Place of Use petitions submitted by DWR and USBR to temporarily add the Central Valley Project (CVP) place of use downstream of the Jones Pumping Plant to the State Water Project (SWP) permit and to temporarily add the SWP place of use downstream of the Banks Pumping Plant to the permits and license of the CVP. These changes are intended to facilitate three specific transfers/exchanges involving a total of up to 220,000 acre-feet of water. The petitions request the changes be effective through September 30, 2011. We are reviewing comments and expect to issue an order in early November.

The notice is available for viewing online at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/transfers_tu_notices/

For further information on Water Transfers, contact Greg Wilson at 341-5427 or gwilson@waterboards.ca.gov