

State Water Board Update

1) San Joaquin River Flow and South Delta Salinity Objectives

The State Water Board is in the process of reviewing the San Joaquin River flow objectives for the protection of fish and wildlife beneficial uses, water quality objectives for the protection of southern delta agricultural beneficial uses, and the program of implementation for those objectives contained in the 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (2006 Bay-Delta Plan).

a) The Scientific Basis for Alternative San Joaquin River Flow and Southern Delta Salinity Objectives (Technical Report) provides the necessary information and analytical tools for the State Water Board to consider potential changes to these objectives and the program of implementation. State Water Board staff revised the October 2010 draft Technical Report in response to oral and written comments received, and submitted it for independent scientific peer review. Peer review comments have been received and are being considered and addressed by State Water Board staff. More information on the peer review process and on the materials submitted for review and comments received can be found at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/peer_review/sanjoaquin_river_flow.shtml

For additional information regarding the Technical Report or the Peer Review Process, contact Kari Kyler at 916-445-5987 or kk Tyler@waterboards.ca.gov or Mark Gowdy at 916-341-5432 or mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov.

b) The State Water Board is preparing a Substitute Environmental Document (SED) for the subject review. A draft SED will be issued early in 2012, and will be followed by a Board workshop to receive public comments. Considering these comments, a final SED and a Board hearing to consider adoption is anticipated in the summer of 2012. Additional information regarding this review can be found at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/bay_delta_plan/water_quality_control_planning/

Questions concerning this effort can be directed to Mark Gowdy at (916) 341-5432 or mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov.

2) Modeling

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

a) DWR has developed a plan to address our requirements for improvements to the salinity simulation performance of the DSM2 model in the southern Delta as

included in Condition A.3 of the Cease and Desist Order WR 2010-0002 (Order) adopted by the Board in January 2010. We are evaluating the proposed plan and work has not started yet.

b) Reclamation is working on a scope of work to provide modeling that will assist with implementing flow objectives for the San Joaquin River at Vernalis once adopted by the State Water Board. Like item a) above this modeling support was required as part of Condition A.3 of the Order. The scope of work is still in development with Reclamation and work has not started.

c) DWR and Reclamation submitted reports to the State Water Board per Condition A.7 of the Order in April 2011. The State Water Board responded to DWR's report, *Low Head Pump Salinity Control Study* in August 2011 and will respond to Reclamation's report, *Special Study: Evaluation of Dilution Flow to Meet Interior South Delta Water Quality Objectives*, shortly.

For further information on these efforts, contact Mark Gowdy at 916-341-5432 or mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov or Patricia Fernandez at 916-319-9141 or pfernandez@waterboards.ca.gov.

3) Water Transfers

11/21/11, Order issued for long-term transfer of 10,000 af/yr from DWR to areas within Westlands Water District. The long-term transfer would commence on May 1, 2012 and continue through April 30, 2027.

The order is available for viewing at:

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

For further information on Water Transfers, contact Patricia Fernandez at 916-319-9141 or pfernandez@waterboards.ca.gov.