

State Water Board Update

1) Phase 1: San Joaquin River Flow and South Delta Water Quality 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).

In order to inform the Bay-Delta Plan review, the State Water Board is preparing a Substitute Environmental Document (SED) and is anticipating issuing a draft by the end of the year. Following a period for receipt of written comments, there will be a public hearing on the adequacy of the draft. A final SED will be released after consideration of the comments and a Board hearing to consider adoption of the final SED and the revised Bay-Delta Plan is anticipated in the spring of 2013.

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/](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](mailto:mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov).

2) Phase 2: Comprehensive Review

Three workshops were held in 2012 related to the Comprehensive Review of the Bay-Delta Plan: September 5 and 6, 2012 on the topic of Ecosystem Changes and the Low Salinity Zone; October 1 and 2, 2012 on the topic of Bay-Delta Fishery Resources; and November 13 and 14, 2012 on the topic of Analytical Tools for Evaluating Water Supply, Hydropower and Hydropower Effects. All speaker presentations and written information received for the workshops, as well as videos are posted on the State Water Board's website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/bay\\_delta/comp\\_review.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/comp_review.shtml).

The information generated through the workshops will augment information generated through earlier reviews and will inform the State Water Board members and staff on what, if any, changes should be made to the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan.

Additional information is available at the Division of Water Rights' website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/bay\\_delta/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/)

Questions concerning this effort can be directed to Rich Satkowski at 916-341-5439 or [rsatkowski@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:rsatkowski@waterboards.ca.gov) or Karen Niiya at 916-341-5365 or [kyniiya@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kyniiya@waterboards.ca.gov).

### 3) Bay-Delta Compliance

The Delta Watermaster at the State Water Board is continuing to monitor DWR/USBR compliance with D-1641 and State Water Board Order 2010-0002. On July, 18, 2012, a Notice of Violation was issued regarding spring pulse flow amounts in the San Joaquin River at Vernalis. The notice also addressed southern Delta salinity standards requirements, Delta Cross Channel closures, and Delta export limits.

### 4) Water Transfers

On October 24, 2012, the State Water Board issued an order for the temporary transfer of 10,000 acre-feet of water from the Merced Irrigation District to the Westlands Water District. The Central Valley Project was added to the place of use to facilitate the transfer.

On September 28, 2012, the State Water Board issued a temporary urgency change notice and instream flow dedication to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation on the San Joaquin River for 3,000 cubic-feet per second by direct diversion and 500,000 acre-feet per annum by storage. Comments were due by October 29, 2012. Two comment letters were received.

For further information on Water Transfers, contact Katherine Mrowka at 916-341-5363 or [kmrowka@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kmrowka@waterboards.ca.gov).