

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 Draft Scientific Basis for San Joaquin River Flow and Southern Delta Salinity Objectives (Scientific 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 Scientific 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 Scientific 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 in late April of 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 October 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.

On February 24, 2012, the State Water Board released three draft technical appendices to the SED being prepared for the review of the San Joaquin River flow and southern Delta Water Quality Objectives and Program of Implementation of those objectives.

The draft technical appendices to the SED, relating to southern Delta salinity and San Joaquin River Flows, cover the following topics:

- Scientific Basis for San Joaquin River Flow and Southern Delta Water Quality Objectives
- Agricultural Economics
- Energy Modeling and Analysis

The State Water Board is releasing the draft Technical Appendices to give interested parties additional time to review these important technical aspects of our review, prior to the release of the entire draft SED. Information regarding the comment period for the SED and draft Technical Appendices will be provided at a later date. The draft Agricultural Economics Report will be submitted for independent peer review soon.

The Draft Technical Appendices can be downloaded from the following link:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/

For questions regarding the draft Scientific Report, contact Kari Kyler at (916) 445-5987, or via email at kkyler@waterboards.ca.gov. For questions regarding the draft Agricultural Economics Report, contact Patricia Fernandez at (916) 319-9141, or via email at pfernandez@waterboards.ca.gov.

c) The State Water Board held an Informational Item and Received Comments regarding a Schedule of Actions to Update the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan and the relationship of these actions to the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan at a meeting on February 21, 2012. Comments are posted on the State Water Board's webpage: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/agendas/2012/feb/comments/022112_5cmmnts.shtml

d) On January 24, 2012, the State Water Board issued a Supplemental Notice of Preparation and Notice of Scoping Meeting to update the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan: Comprehensive Review. The scoping meeting will be held on May 16, 2012. Written comments will be due by noon on Wednesday, April 25, 2012.

Additional information is available at the Division of Water Rights' website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/

Questions concerning this effort can be directed to Karen Niiya at 916-341-5365 or kyniia@waterboards.ca.gov or Diane Riddle at 916-341-5297 or driddle@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 of 2011. The State Water Board responded to DWR's report, *Low Head Pump Salinity Control Study* in August of 2011. The State Water Board's response to Reclamation's report, *Special Study: Evaluation of Dilution Flow to Meet Interior South Delta Water Quality Objectives* is still under management review.

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 acre-feet (af)/year from DWR to areas within Westlands Water District (Westlands). The long-term transfer would commence on April 1, 2012 and continue through April 30, 2027. The State Water Board received a petition for reconsideration of the order from Westlands on December 20, 2011. The State Water Board has prepared an Executive Order.

The order and related documents are available for viewing at:

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

12/23/11, Notice issued for long-term transfer and instream flow dedication from Merced Irrigation District (Application 1224) to U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Comments were due by 1/23/12. Comments were received and are being addressed. An order is expected to be issued by April 1, 2012.

1/18/12, Notice issued for temporary transfer of 100,000 af of water from Arvin-Edison Water Storage District (a Central Valley Project contractor) to the Metropolitan Water District (a State Water Project contractor). Comments were due by 2/22/12. An order is being prepared.

2/10/12, Notice issued for U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Application 18115) temporary urgency change to extend the season of rediversion for 30 days from May 15, 2012 to June 15, 2012. Water is diverted to storage in Black Butte Reservoir and rediverted at the Stony Creek Siphon into the Tehama-Colusa Canal. Comments were due by 2/24/12. An order is being prepared.

Notices can be viewed at:

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

For further information on Water Transfers, contact Katherine Mrowka at 916-341-5363 or kmrowka@waterboards.ca.gov.