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## State Water Resources Control Board

### **NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE LISTENING SESSION ON STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD EFFORTS TO UPDATE AND IMPLEMENT THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY/SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA ESTUARY**

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) staff will hold a public listening session on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, to receive input from representatives of environmental justice organizations, economically disadvantaged communities (DACs); and black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) community members and individuals on the Board's current efforts to update and implement the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan), including consideration of possible Voluntary Agreements for those update and implementation efforts. During the listening session, responses will be provided to questions and comments received at a prior environmental justice focused Bay-Delta planning and implementation listening session held on March 27, 2023. State Water Board staff will also present on the Board's Bay-Delta planning and implementation efforts. Staff from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) will then provide information on Voluntary Agreements for possible updates to the Bay-Delta Plan. Participants will then have the opportunity to provide feedback and input in smaller group break out discussions. A frequently asked questions document will be released prior to the listening session. A quorum of the Board may be present, but no action will be taken.

**Wednesday, June 7, 2023  
3:00 P.M. – as late as 7:00 P.M.  
Remote Participation Only**

#### **PARTICIPATION INFORMATION**

**If you wish to participate via the Zoom online platform, please register by noon on Thursday, June 1, 2023 at:**  
[https://waterboards.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_3EQjN7FmSl6kY2iJTZwjJg](https://waterboards.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3EQjN7FmSl6kY2iJTZwjJg). **If you wish to participate after 5 p.m., please indicate so in the comments box of the registration form.** After submitting your registration information, you will receive an email from Zoom with a link to the listening session.

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**If you wish to view the listening session only**, a webcast will be available at <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/> (closed captioning available). This option should be used for viewing the listening session **unless** you intend to provide oral comments, ask questions, or participate in a smaller group discussion during the workshop. The small group discussions will not be webcast, but staff will provide a summary of input received during the small group discussions that will be webcast.

## **AGENDA**

Below is the tentative agenda for the listening session, subject to possible modification as appropriate based on number of registrants or other information.

<b>Topic</b>
<b>Public Forum</b>
<b>Listening Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Welcoming Remarks</b></li><li>• <b>Staff Presentation Providing Overview of Bay-Delta Processes, Frequently Asked Questions, and Opportunities to Provide Input</b></li><li>• <b>Small Group Discussions</b></li><li>• <b>Report Comments to the Larger Group and Board Member Participants</b></li><li>• <b>Open Forum for Any Additional Comments</b></li><li>• <b>Board Member Participant Remarks</b></li><li>• <b>Next Steps</b></li></ul>

The listening session will primarily occur in small group discussions (breakout rooms), where participants will be asked to identify environmental justice issues that the Board should consider when updating and implementing the Bay-Delta Plan. Input may be provided generally and specifically related to any of the current processes the Board is undertaking to consider updates and implementation measures for the Bay-Delta Plan. Board staff will provide a summary of the small-group comments to the larger group and Board Members in attendance. Following the small group reports, individuals will also be provided the opportunity to provide direct comments.

## **BACKGROUND**

Protecting the Bay-Delta watershed is one of the State Water Board's primary responsibilities and top priorities. The State Water Board is responsible for adopting and updating the Bay-Delta Plan, which identifies beneficial uses of water in the Bay-Delta watershed, water quality objectives for the reasonable protection of those beneficial uses, and a program of implementation to achieve the objectives.

The Bay-Delta watershed is a critical part of California's water supply system and provides habitat for fish, wildlife, and species with high ecological, economic, and cultural importance. Native species in the Bay-Delta ecosystem are experiencing significant declines due to habitat conversion, degraded water quality, reductions in flows, changes in the timing and distribution of flows, and the inability to access natal

habitats blocked by dams and levees. The State Water Board is actively working to address many of these issues through the update and implementation of the Bay-Delta Plan.

The Bay-Delta Plan is currently in the process of being updated and implemented through separate processes. In December 2018, the State Water Board adopted Bay-Delta Plan amendments focused on Lower San Joaquin River flows for the protection of fish and wildlife and southern Delta salinity for the protection of agriculture. In July 2022, the State Water Board issued a [Notice of Preparation \(NOP\) of a draft environmental impact report needed to support a proposed regulation to implement the 2018 Bay-Delta Plan updates](#). Separately, the State Water Board is also considering possible updates to the 2018 amendments to the Bay-Delta Plan that would be needed for a proposed Voluntary Agreement for the Tuolumne River. In April 2023, an [NOP was issued for preparation of a draft Staff Report/Substitute Environmental Document](#) needed to support possible amendments to the Bay-Delta Plan.

The State Water Board is also considering updates to the Bay-Delta Plan focused on the Sacramento River and its tributaries, Delta eastside tributaries (including Calaveras, Cosumnes, and Mokelumne rivers), interior Delta flows, and Delta outflows (Sacramento/Delta updates to the Bay-Delta Plan). Currently, the State Water Board is developing a draft Staff Report/Substitute Environmental Document in support of possible Sacramento/Delta updates to the Bay-Delta Plan. The draft Staff Report/Substitute Environmental Document evaluates project alternatives, including a potential Voluntary Agreement alternative. The draft Staff Report/Substitute Environmental Document is anticipated to be released for public review and comment in summer of 2023.

The State Water Board is interested in receiving additional input on environmental justice issues that should be evaluated and considered during the above planning and implementation processes.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The listening session will also be recorded and posted to the State Water Board's website at:

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

A prior environmental justice focused Bay-Delta Plan listening session was held on March 27, 2023. The March 27, 2023 listening session recording and more information on the Board's Bay-Delta planning and implementation processes is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vyKXBDZPcE>.

If you would like to receive email updates about the State Water Board's Bay-Delta planning and implementation processes, please sign up for the State Water Board's "Water Rights – Bay Delta Notices" email list at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/swrcb\\_subscribe.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.html).

**CONTACT**

Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact staff at [Bay-Delta@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Bay-Delta@waterboards.ca.gov) prior to the listening session. If you have any questions regarding this notice or how to participate in the listening session, you may send an email to staff at [Bay-Delta@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Bay-Delta@waterboards.ca.gov).

**LANGUAGE SERVICES**

If you require interpretation or translation in a language other than English or would like to request sign language services, please contact us at (916) 322-4265 or [languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov) before May 24, 2023.

**WEBCAST ACCESSIBILITY**

This meeting will offer closed captioning in English at <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/>. An alternate live-stream broadcast will also be available at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/BoardWebSupport/>. Telecommunications device for the hearing impaired (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

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Date                      May 11, 2023

  
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Courtney Tyler  
Clerk to the Board