

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – OFFICE OF DELTA WATERMASTER
APRIL 23, 2013**

ITEM 3

SUBJECT

INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON GATES AND BARRIERS IN THE DELTA

DISCUSSION

California Water Code Section 85230(d) directs the State's Delta Watermaster (Watermaster) to submit regular reports to the State Water Board on water rights administration, water quality issues, and conveyance operations. The Watermaster has completed a report entitled [Gates and Barriers in the Delta](#).

The report discusses the topic of gates and barriers in the Delta. The report notes that the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) was originally a tidal marsh which was reclaimed through the construction of a complex system of levees surrounding the many islands and tracks that make up the Delta. Conveyance operations of the Delta, which include the operations for the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project (Projects), have led to water quality issues in the Delta. The report discusses current gates and barriers, as playing a useful role in addressing water quality issues, as well as a method to help keep fish from becoming trapped in water corridors leading to the export pumps of the Projects. It suggests further studies into gates and barriers and the possibility of expansion of current barriers to improve the water quality and protect fisheries.

POLICY ISSUE

None at this time. Informational Item

FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time. Informational Item

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None at this time. Informational Item

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the conclusions of this report be considered.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goals 4 and 6 of the Strategic Plan Update, 2008-2012. Goal 4: to comprehensively address water quality protection and restoration: to enhance consistency across the Water Boards, on an ongoing basis, to ensure our processes are effective, efficient, and predictable, and to promote fair and equitable application of laws, regulations, policies, and procedures and Goal 6: enhance consistency across the Water Boards, on an ongoing basis, to ensure our processes are effective, efficient, and predictable, and to promote fair and equitable application of laws, regulations, policies, and procedures.