

ITEM: 25

SUBJECT: Control Program for the Dissolved Oxygen Impairment in the Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel

BOARD ACTION: Consideration of Resolution

BACKGROUND: In 2005, the Central Valley Water Board adopted a Basin Plan Amendment and Control Program to address low dissolved oxygen conditions in the Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel (DWSC). Dissolved oxygen levels were often below the established water quality objectives. The Control Program requires an evaluation of the allocations for oxygen demand and implementation provisions for the Control Program after the completion of watershed studies, taking into account current dissolved oxygen conditions in the Stockton DWSC.

The watershed studies were completed in 2014. Although the studies improved our understanding of the impairment, an independent peer review concluded the models developed as part of the studies should not be relied upon for revising allocations. Since adoption of the Control Program, dissolved oxygen conditions in the Stockton DWSC have improved notably. Based on data through 2013, the dissolved oxygen impairment is much more limited in area and magnitude, and is being effectively addressed through the use of aeration. The Port of Stockton will provide a presentation on aeration operations and cost information during the Board meeting.

A staff report was developed to evaluate four planning alternatives for future actions in the Control Program. Based on exploration of each identified alternative, staff recommends the continued implementation of the existing Control Program and supports continued operation of the aerator by stakeholders.

The staff report was distributed to stakeholders for a 30-day public review and comment period. No comment letters were received. However, staff made minor edits to the staff report.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review ASD

05/06 February 2015
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