

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
and
NOTICE OF FILING OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS
Concerning a
Basin Plan Amendment for the Control of Methyl and Total Mercury in the
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board or Board), will consider an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins (Basin Plan). The proposed amendment would institute a program to control methylmercury and inorganic mercury in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Delta). The proposed mercury control program addresses beneficial uses, fish tissue objectives, and an implementation program to achieve the objectives. The proposed program will satisfy the Central Valley Water Board's obligation under the federal Clean Water Act section 303(d) to address the Delta fish mercury impairment by developing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Delta. The proposed program will have requirements for municipal and industrial wastewater, urban runoff, irrigated agriculture, managed wetlands, flood conveyance, water management, dredging, and the Cache Creek settling basin.

The Central Valley Water Board opened the hearing in April 2008. The Board will continue the hearing at the following public meeting:

Date: Hearing: **22 April 2010**
Continued Hearing (if necessary): 27 or 28 May 2010
(Please contact staff 2 weeks in advance of the meetings for specific dates and times)

Time: 8:30 am.

Place: Central Valley Water Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Should the Board take action on the proposed amendment, this action would be exempt from the requirement to prepare an environmental impact report under the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code § 21000 et seq.) pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.5. The proposed amendment and supporting staff report include environmental documentation required under Public Resources Code section 21080.5; California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3775-3782; Water Code sections 13050, 13241, and 13242; Clean Water Act section 303(d); and other applicable laws and regulations.

Unavoidable adverse environmental effects may result from implementation of the proposed mercury control program. These effects may be mitigated, but mitigation measures lie within the jurisdiction of agencies implementing site-specific projects. The supporting staff report contains a review of potential impacts and possible mitigation measures, and explains that the risk posed to humans and wildlife by the consumption of contaminated Delta fish is an overriding consideration that takes precedence over potential adverse environmental effects.

