

ITEM: 12
SUBJECT: Delta Mercury Control Program, October 2014 Update

BOARD ACTION: This is an informational item.

BACKGROUND: In 2010, the Central Valley Water Board adopted the Delta Mercury Control Program to address the mercury impairment in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Delta). The Delta Mercury Control Program addresses both mercury and methylmercury sources in the Delta including wastewater, urban runoff, wetlands, open channels, and agricultural return flows. Implementation Phase 1, which continues through 2018, is primarily a study period during which methylmercury control measures are being tested and evaluated. At the end of Phase 1, the Central Valley Water Board will review the study results and consider revising the program. Full implementation of source controls will occur in Phase 2, after the program review. The program's final compliance date is 2030.

Studies and tests of methylmercury control are in progress. Studies are being conducted variously by individual discharge entities and by collaborative groups. Results from projects will be reviewed by an independent, technical advisory committee at the study period midpoint and at its end in 2018.

Also occurring in Phase 1 are activities to reduce exposure to mercury among people who eat Delta fish. Entities responsible for conducting the methylmercury studies are also tasked with participation in exposure reduction. A total of \$458,000, from Delta NPDES permittees and others and the Cleanup and Abatement Account is available to start the program. Funds are being supplemented by staff time from the Central Valley Water Board, the California Department of Public Health, and other agencies. Outreach to fish consumers and community stakeholders will begin in October 2014.

RECOMMENDATION: This is an informational item.

Mgmt. Review JEC
Legal Review PEP
9/10 October 2014
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