
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL SESSION

The State Water Resources Control Board will hold an
Informational Session to present

two Draft Technical Appendices to the
Substitute Environmental Document for Potential Changes to the San Joaquin River Flow and
Southern Delta Water Quality Objectives and the Associated Program of Implementation

**The session will be conducted in two parts on
Tuesday, March 20, 2012,
following the State Water Board Meeting and**

not earlier than 1:30 p.m.

for presentation of the Draft Appendix on Agricultural Economic Effects of
Lower San Joaquin River Flow Alternatives

and

not earlier than 2:30 p.m.

for presentation of the Draft Appendix on Hydropower and Electric Grid Analysis of
Lower San Joaquin River Flow Alternatives

in the Coastal Hearing Room
Joe Serna, Jr. –Cal/EPA Building
1001 I Street, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, California

**Note that the date of this Session has changed from the date
proposed in the State Water Board's February 24, 2012
Draft Technical Appendices transmittal letter**

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The purpose of this informational session is to provide clarifying information and technical explanation of two draft technical appendices to the Substitute Environmental Document for Potential Changes to the San Joaquin River (SJR) Flow and Southern Delta Water Quality Objectives and the Associated Program of Implementation (SED), prepared in connection with potential amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan). The appendices were released for public review by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) on February 24, 2012. At this session, stakeholders will have an opportunity to

gain a better understanding of the structure and content of the following two reports that will be included as appendices in the SED and that will inform the SED analysis.

1. Agricultural Economic Effects of Lower San Joaquin River Flow Alternatives (Agricultural Economics Report)
2. Hydropower and Electric Grid Analysis of Lower San Joaquin River Flow Alternatives (Power Production Report)

A presentation on the Agricultural Economics Report will commence after the State Water Board meeting on Tuesday, March 20, 2012, no earlier than 1:30 p.m. A presentation on the Power Production Report will commence no earlier than 2:30 p.m. on the same date. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask clarifying questions about the appendices at the end of each presentation. The State Water Board is not soliciting comments on the appendices and draft SED, which includes these appendices, but will instead provide notice of an opportunity to comment on these documents in the near future. This informational session is intended to assist interested persons in their review of the appendices in order to inform later comments on the appendices and draft SED. A quorum of members of the State Water Board may be present at this session.

BACKGROUND

On February 24, 2012, the State Water Board released for public review three draft technical appendices to the SED being prepared in support of potential changes to the SJR flow and southern Delta water quality objectives and the program of implementation for those objectives. The release included the two appendices that are the subject of this notice and a third draft appendix titled Scientific Basis for the Alternative San Joaquin River Flow and Southern Delta Salinity Objectives (Scientific Report). Since the Scientific Report has already been the subject of a State Water Board Workshop, it will not be discussed at the March 20, 2012 informational session.

The 2006 Bay-Delta Plan identifies beneficial uses of water in the Bay-Delta, water quality objectives to protect those uses, and a program of implementation to achieve the water quality objectives. The State Water Board initiated the review and update of the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan in 2009 in a phased fashion. The review of the SJR flow and southern Delta water quality objectives and program of implementation was initiated in 2009 and represents the first phase of the State Water Board's review of the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan. Additional information concerning the State Water Board's review of the SJR flow and southern Delta water quality objectives and program of implementation is available at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/bay_delta_plan/water_quality_control_planning/index.shtml.

The subject SED and technical appendices pertain only to the first phase of the State Water Board's review of the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan: SJR flow and southern Delta water quality objectives and the associated program of implementation. In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the SED will evaluate any significant environmental impacts that may be associated with potential changes to the SJR flow and southern Delta water quality objectives and program of implementation, including evaluating reasonable alternatives and mitigation measures that may avoid or reduce any significant or potentially significant environmental impacts. The SED will also inform the State Water Board's compliance with certain requirements of the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act, including the requirement to consider economics when establishing water quality objectives.

The State Water Board plans to release the draft SED in late April 2012. Upon release of the draft SED, the State Water Board will identify a date by which comments on the draft SED, including the appendices that will be presented at the meeting, are due. There will not be a separate comment

period for these appendices. The State Water Board released the draft technical appendices in advance to give interested parties additional time to review these important technical appendices as they represent some of the relevant factors that the State Water Board will consider as it balances competing uses of water in its future deliberations.

The draft technical appendices are posted on the State Water Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/bay_delta_plan/water_quality_control_planning/index.shtml

INFORMATION REGARDING THE MEETING

If you have any questions regarding the information meeting, please contact Larry Lindsay at (916) 341-5358 or llindsay@waterboards.ca.gov, or Mark Gowdy at (916) 341-5432 or mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov.

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March 5, 2012

Date



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board