
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON WORKING DRAFT SCIENTIFIC BASIS REPORT FOR POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY/SACRAMENTO- SAN JOAQUIN DELTA ESTUARY PHASE II UPDATE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will accept written comments on the Working Draft Scientific Basis Report on the Phase II update of the 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (2006 Bay-Delta Plan). The State Water Board will also provide an opportunity for the public to present oral comments at a public workshop. This will be an informational workshop only and the State Water Board will take no formal action.

Wednesday, December 7, 2016 – 9:00 a.m.
Joe Serna Jr. – CalEPA Headquarters Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

BACKGROUND

The State Water Board is reviewing and updating the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan to ensure that Bay-Delta beneficial uses are reasonably protected. The Phase II update is focused on potential changes to requirements to reasonably protect fish and wildlife, with consideration of other beneficial uses including: municipal, industrial, agricultural, power production, and other environmental uses. Phase II addresses potential: new inflow requirements for the Sacramento River, its tributaries, and eastside tributaries to the Delta; changes to Delta outflow requirements; new and modified interior Delta flow requirements; and new cold water habitat protection requirements. Phase I is a separate process considering updates to flow requirements on the Lower San Joaquin River and salinity objectives for the Southern Delta.

A comprehensive regulatory approach is needed to protect Bay-Delta fish and wildlife throughout their migratory range with an integrated framework for inflows, outflows, and interior Delta flows that provides for timely action, flexibility, and coordination with other planning, regulatory, and restoration efforts. This includes the integration of needed flow and nonflow actions to the extent possible, and science, monitoring, and evaluation activities. New requirements would include adaptive management provisions to respond to new and changing information over the long term and in real time.

A working draft Scientific Basis Report (Report) is being prepared to support the Phase II update of the Bay-Delta Plan. The Report identifies the science that will be relied upon to consider potential changes to the Bay-Delta Plan in Phase II. Under Public Health and Safety Code section 57004, the State Water Board is required to have the scientific basis for potential changes to the Bay-Delta Plan undergo external peer review. The Report is being released as a working draft in order to receive early additional scientific input from other agencies, including the Delta Independent Science Board (ISB), and the public prior to submittal of the Report for external peer review. Based on the comments received on the working draft, the State Water Board will update the Report that will be submitted for external peer review.

In addition to the draft Report, the State Water Board has developed the Sacramento Water Allocation Model (SacWAM), which is a hydrology and system operations model to help evaluate various potential environmental and economic impacts associated with Phase II alternative regulatory requirements. The Delta Science Program (DSP) is conducting an independent science review of SacWAM, and is planning to hold a review panel workshop on Wednesday, October 19, 2016. Once reviewed and refined, the State Water Board expects to use SacWAM to inform future analyses included in the final version of the Report as appropriate.

Additional information concerning the Phase II update of the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan can be found at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/comp_review.shtml.

PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP

The purpose of this workshop is for the State Water Board to receive comments and other technical information related to its draft Report on the scientific basis for Phase II updates to the Bay-Delta Plan. At the workshop the Board will receive recommendations from the public and other agencies regarding any additional scientific information that should be considered during development of the final draft Report. This is a technical workshop in which the State Water Board is interested in receiving scientific input only. Phase II is in its early stages and there will be additional opportunities for public participation and comment as the planning process moves forward.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The Working Draft Scientific Basis Report can be found at:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/DeltaWQCP-Phase2/>

For those without internet access, please contact Jason Baker at (916) 341-5354 or at jason.baker@waterboards.ca.gov to obtain the document. Copies on compact disc are available for a minimal fee. Hard copies are available for the cost of reproduction.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

Comment letters must be **received no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, December 16, 2016.** Send comments to Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the State Water Board, by email at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov (**must be no more than 15 megabytes**) or mail or hand delivery at:

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000 (mail)
1001 I Street, 24th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 (hand delivery)

Please indicate in the subject line, “**Comment Letter – Bay-Delta Phase II Working Draft Science Report**”. Copies of all comments submitted will be posted on the State Water Board website for the information of other persons.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The workshop will be informational only. While a quorum of the State Water Board may be present, the Board will not take formal action at the workshop. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants, but the State Water Board and its staff may ask clarifying questions. To ensure a productive and efficient workshop in which all participants have opportunity to participate, oral comments or presentations may be limited to three minutes per speaker or as otherwise directed by the Board chair.

Joint presenters may request more than three minutes to present by submitting an email request to the State Water Board by no later than 12:00 noon on Monday, November 14, 2016. Requests for additional time for a joint presentation shall include the name of each presenter, the individuals or entities being represented, the total amount of time requested, and the justification for the time request. Requests shall be sent to Jason Baker via email at jason.baker@waterboards.ca.gov. If you have any questions, please contact him at (916) 341-5354. The State Water Board will respond to the requests by November 21, 2016, and reserves the right to grant or modify requests for additional time and may schedule joint presentations for a time certain.

For presentation recommendations, please see information at the following link:
www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/meetings/board_presentations.shtml.

FUTURE NOTICES RELATED TO THIS MATTER

The State Water Board will hold the public workshop at the time and place noted above. Any change in the date, time and place will be provided by notices sent via the Lyris e-mail list. Any person desiring to receive future notices concerning the Phase II Bay-Delta Plan update must sign up for the Lyris e-mail list. To sign up, access the E-mail List Subscription form, click on the “Water Rights” title bar, select the box for “Bay Delta Notices” and provide the required information. The form is located at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml#rights

WORKSHOP LOCATION, PARKING, AND ACCESSIBILITY

For directions to the Joe Serna, Jr. CalEPA Building and public parking information, please refer to: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPABldg/location.htm>. The CalEPA is accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to call (916) 341-5880 at least five working days prior to the hearing. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922. An audio broadcast of the meetings held at the CalEPA building will be available via the internet and can be accessed at <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/>.

All visitors to the CalEPA Building are required to sign in and obtain a badge at the Visitor Services Center located just inside the main entrance (10th Street entrance). Valid picture identification may be required. Please allow up to 15 minutes for receiving security clearance.

On-site Spanish translation may be provided upon request. For more information, or to request translation accommodations, please contact Marina Perez at (916) 322-4265 no later than Monday, November 14, 2016.

Para más información o para solicitar servicios de intérprete en español, puede contactar a Marina Perez (bilingüe) al (916) 322-4265 para el Lunes, 14 de Noviembre del 2016.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please direct any questions about this notice to Karen Niiya at (916) 341-5365 or by email at karen.niiya@waterboards.ca.gov, or to Matt Holland at (916) 341-5947 or by email at matthew.holland@waterboards.ca.gov.

October 19, 2016

Date



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board