
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON THE DRAFT SCIENTIFIC BASIS REPORT SUPPLEMENT FOR CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL UPDATES TO THE BAY-DELTA PLAN TO INCORPORATE A PROPOSED VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT FOR THE TUOLUMNE RIVER

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) will accept public comments on the Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement for the Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement Proposal (Draft TVA Scientific Basis Report). The Draft TVA Scientific Basis Report is a necessary prerequisite before the State Water Board may consider the proposed voluntary agreement for the Tuolumne River, which would require potential updates to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan). Public written comments must be submitted no later than Friday, November 7, 2025. Public written comments must be submitted per the procedures in the "Submission of Comments" section of this public notice.

NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Board will hold a public workshop on the Draft TVA Scientific Basis Report on Wednesday, November 5, 2025. A quorum of the State Water Board may be present, but the State Water Board will take no action. During the public workshop, staff from the State Water Board will provide a presentation, followed by the opportunity for public comments. This public workshop will commence at:

Wednesday, November 5, 2025 – no earlier than 9:00 a.m.

Coastal Hearing Room – Second Floor

Joe Serna Jr. – CalEPA Building

1001 I Street, Sacramento

And via Video and Teleconference (For public commenters)

Video and Teleconference Option: This meeting will occur with both a physical meeting location and an option for the public to participate from a remote location.

- For those who only wish to watch the meeting, the webcast will be available at either <https://www.youtube.com/user/BoardWebSupport> or <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/> (closed captioning available) should be used, UNLESS you intend to comment.
- For members of the public who wish to comment, additional information about participating via the Zoom meeting platform is provided below.

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND

The State Water Board protects water quality that affects beneficial uses of water in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta Estuary in part through its Bay-Delta Plan. The Bay-Delta Plan identifies beneficial uses of water, water quality objectives to protect those beneficial uses, a program of implementation to achieve the water quality objectives, and monitoring and evaluation provisions to assess the effectiveness of the program of implementation. In December 2018, the State Water Board approved updates to the Lower San Joaquin River (LSJR) flow components of the Bay-Delta Plan for the reasonable protection of fish and wildlife. In 2016, the State Water Board finalized a [Technical Report on the Scientific Basis for Alternative San Joaquin River Flow and Southern Delta Salinity Objectives](#) (2016 Scientific Basis Report) to describe the science and rationale relied upon for the 2018 updates to the Bay-Delta Plan.

In March 2022, the State Water Board received a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\) Advancing a Term Sheet for VAs](#) to update and implement the Bay-Delta Plan. Subsequently, in November 2022, the State Water Board received a [Revised MOU](#) including additional signatories and a voluntary agreement proposal for the Tuolumne River (TVA) that includes a combination of proposed flows and physical habitat commitments. Because the flow portion of the proposed TVA does not meet the minimum flow requirements in the current Bay-Delta Plan, the Board must also consider that incorporation of the TVA would require an amendment to the Bay-Delta Plan supported by a staff report and a substitute environmental document. The State Water Board has made no decision as to whether to revise the Bay-Delta Plan to include the TVA, but in order to facilitate an evaluation of the proposal, the State Water Board is releasing this scientific basis report supplement.

The Draft TVA Scientific Basis Report presents the science analyzing the proposed provisions included in the TVA. The Draft TVA Scientific Basis Report was developed by State Water Board staff in collaboration with staff from the Department of Fish Wildlife and Department of Water Resources. Following receipt of public comments, the Draft TVA Scientific Basis Report will be revised as appropriate and a Revised Draft TVA Scientific Basis Report will be submitted for scientific peer review pursuant to the requirements of California Public Health and Safety Code section 57004, which requires that the scientific basis of any statewide plan, basin plan, plan amendment, guideline, policy, or regulation undergo external scientific peer review. Following peer review, the report may be further revised.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The Draft TVA Scientific Basis Report is available for review on the State Water Board's website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/bay_delta_plan/water_quality_control_planning/. You may also request a copy of the Draft TVA Scientific Basis Report by contacting State Water Board staff at LSJR-SD-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov.

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.

At the public workshop, commenters will be given an opportunity to make oral comments to the Board or to summarize and supplement their written materials. If you would like to provide oral comments, please follow the remote participation guidelines available at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/remote_meeting/.

Parties that would like to make a presentation at the workshop should inform State Water Board staff of their intent to participate and submit their presentation no later than **12:00 p.m. (noon) on Friday, October 27, 2025**. Presentations should be kept to 20 minutes or less. Presentations must be in PowerPoint format and should not include any transitions or external media sources. Please be aware that State Water Board staff will be sharing and advancing all presentation slides during the workshop. If multiple speakers wish to organize as a panel, please identify the number and names of all panelists. For recommendations regarding presentations to the Board, please go to: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/meetings/board_presentations.html.

Other public comments should be limited to no more than five (5) minutes. Depending on the number of speakers, the State Water Board may further limit oral comments in order to provide all speakers with the opportunity to comment.

SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

The State Water Board will accept both written and oral comments on the Draft TVA River Scientific Basis Report. To submit written comments, please use the subject line: **“Comment Letter – Draft TVA Scientific Basis Report”**. Written comments must be received by **12:00 p.m. (noon) on Friday, November 7, 2025**, and should be submitted via email to LSJR-SD-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov.

FUTURE NOTICES

Any change to the date, time, or the public comment period will be provided via the State Water Board’s email distribution list. The subscription form is located at: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CAWRCB/subscriber/new?qsp=ca_swrwb. To subscribe, select the “General Interests” category, then check the box for “Board Meetings”, and provide the required information.

WORKSHOP LOCATION, PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

For directions to the Joe Serna, Jr. CalEPA Building and public parking information, please refer to: <https://calepa.ca.gov/headquarters-sacramento/location/>. 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 on 10th Street. Please allow ten (10) minutes to receive security clearance.

If you have limitations to hearing or speaking, you may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 (teletypewriter) or (800) 735-2922 (voice). A broadcast of the public workshop will be available via internet and can be accessed at <https://video.calepa.ca.gov>.

Any person who requires a reasonable accommodation to participate in the meeting should email contact@waterboards.ca.gov or call (916) 341-5254, at least ten (10) business days prior to the meeting.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THE WORKSHOP

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to LSJR-SD-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov.

September 19, 2025
Date



Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board