

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – OFFICE OF DELTA WATERMASTER
MARCH 15, 2011**

ITEM 9

SUBJECT

INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD'S
ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING THE DELTA PLAN

DISCUSSION

California Water Code Section 85230(d) directs the State's Delta Watermaster (Watermaster) to submit regular reports to the State Water Board on water rights administration, water quality issues, and conveyance operations. The Watermaster has completed a report entitled [The State Water Resources Control Board's Role in Implementing the Delta Plan](#).

The report focuses on the State Water Board's role as the state's principal water resources regulatory agency and how the authorities associated with this role, may be used to help implement the Delta Plan. The report notes that the Delta Stewardship Council is responsible for introducing and implementing a Delta Plan for the purpose of protecting and preserving the Delta, and providing a more reliable water supply for California. This Delta Plan may identify specific actions that state agencies may implement to assist the Delta Stewardship Council in implementing the plan's strategies and subgoals. In this regard, the State Water Board exercises broad authorities that may be applied towards the implementation of the Delta Plan. The State Water Board's authorities to regulate water rights and water quality matters and to enforce the constitutional Reasonable Use Doctrine all may be used to address and to implement the co-equal goals, strategies and subgoals. Also, the State Water Board's Delta-related plans: The Delta Strategic Workplan and the Bay-Delta Plan may be incorporated into the Delta Plan to promote the co-equal goals.

POLICY ISSUE

None at this time. Informational Item.

FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time. Informational Item.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None at this time. Informational Item.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the conclusions of this plan be recognized and that the Delta Plan include a discussion of the State Water Board's authorities that may be utilized to implement the plan's strategies and goals. Staff also recommends that the Bay-Delta Plan and the Delta Strategic Workplan be incorporated into the Delta Plan.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goals 1 and 6 of the Strategic Plan Update, 2008-2012. Goal 1: Implement strategies to fully support the beneficial uses for all 2006-listed water bodies by 2030 and Goal 6: To enhance consistency across the Water Boards, on an ongoing basis, to ensure our processes are effective, efficient, and predictable, and to promote fair and equitable application of laws, regulations, policies, and procedures.