STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS
SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

ITEM 2

SUBJECT

WATER SUPPLY AND DEMAND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM UPDATE.

DISCUSSION

Division of Water Rights staff will provide an update on its Water Supply and Demand Assessment Program (Program). The Program is developing hydrologic water supply models and surface water demand datasets for selected watersheds across the State.

The Program was created following the 2020-2022 Drought Response, which highlighted the need for better data and tools to assess water availability, particularly during times of drought or water shortage. The Program is expanding on the approached used in the Russian River watershed drought response. Specifically, it is developing, calibrating, and validating new water supply models for select watersheds. Concurrently, staff are conducting quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) cleanup of the water use data reported annually by water rights holders in these watersheds to develop more reliable surface water demand data sets for the models.

The Program is developing water supply models and demand data sets for the following watersheds: Butte Creek, Big Creek, Gualala River, Mattole River, Napa River, Navarro River, Pescadero Creek, Petaluma River, Pismo and San Luis Obispo Creeks, Putah Creek, Salmon Creek (Sonoma County), San Gregorio Creek, San Lorenzo River, Santa Maria River, Sonoma Creek, Tomales-Drake Bays, and Trinity River.

Program staff have reached out to and are engaging with interested parties, including agencies, diverters, tribes, and the public to solicit input on the models and demand datasets. All data and tools will be open source and available to the public to help locals assess water conditions, evaluate different water management scenarios, and better manage their water resources and promote resiliency.

Staff will present on the status of model development in the selected watersheds, demonstrate interactive visualizations of surface water demands being developed for these watersheds, share examples of the information provided by the models, and outline next steps and possible local uses of these tools.

POLICY ISSUE

None.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None.