

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: Delta Mercury Control Program Progress Report

BOARD ACTION: This is an informational item.

BACKGROUND: In 2010, the Central Valley Water Board adopted the Delta Mercury Control Program to address mercury impairment in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Delta). The Delta Mercury Control Program addresses both mercury and methylmercury sources in the Delta including wastewater, urban runoff, wetlands, open channels, and agricultural return flows. Implementation Phase 1, which continues through 2018, is primarily a study period during which methylmercury control measures are being tested and evaluated. At the end of Phase 1, the Central Valley Water Board will review the study results and consider revising the program. Full implementation of source controls will occur in Phase 2, after the program review. The program's final compliance date is 2030.

October 2015 marked the first half of Phase 1 and the entities responsible for the methylmercury control studies submitted their required progress reports for staff review. The reports documented actions and study results to date, planned actions for the second half of the study period, and recommended changes to the study work plans. In addition, as necessary, some of the study progress reports will be sent to the independent, technical advisory committee for their review and recommendations. The attached table summarizes the studies.

Also occurring in Phase 1 are activities to reduce exposure to mercury among people who eat Delta fish. The Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (Delta MERP) was formed as a collaborative effort of the Central Valley Water Board, California Department of Public Health, the Delta Conservancy, and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. It is supported by funds from the Cleanup and Abatement Account and from entities responsible for conducting the methylmercury studies. Accomplishments of the Delta MERP include developing educational materials, including translations into eight non-English languages, a small grant program providing assistance to three community organizations conducting exposure reduction activities, and quarterly meetings for education and networking among community stakeholders. Anticipated activities include posting fish consumption advisory signs in over 100 locations throughout the Delta, a second small grant program targeted to community organizations and Tribes, and ongoing outreach to local agency and community organizations in the five Delta counties.

RECOMMENDATION: This is an informational item.

Mgmt. Review_JEC/_____

Legal Review_PEP_____

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