

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: Joint Water Boards Strategy for Protecting Beneficial Uses of the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of a Resolution Identifying Actions the Water Boards Will Take to Protect Beneficial Uses of the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary*

BACKGROUND: Despite extensive effort and expense over the past decade to restore the Delta ecosystem, evidence of declines in populations of Delta species indicates that the system is not improving. As such, several efforts are underway to develop a vision for the future of the Delta including Delta Vision, the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan, Delta Risk Management Strategy, and the conclusion of Stage 1 of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. At the same time, the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) is conducting large-scale studies to determine the relative importance of the factors thought to be contributing to the decline of Delta species (i.e., water diversions, invasive species, and contaminants). The Water Boards are engaged in all of these efforts to varying degrees.

To improve coordination of Delta-related programs and activities, in 2007 the State Water Board and the Central Valley and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Boards formed the Water Boards Delta Team comprised of staff from all Water Board programs that have links to the Delta (e.g., water rights, water quality, permitting, waivers, etc.). The Delta Team initiated a short and long-term planning process for protecting beneficial uses of the Delta and developed the proposed resolution describing actions the Water Boards will take. Some actions have been initiated or completed and show success in improving Delta conditions (e.g., the Total Maximum Daily Loads for organophosphorus pesticides), while others require additional planning and work.

The Delta Team proposes that this resolution be adopted as a joint statement of intent by the State Water Board and the Central Valley and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Boards.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed resolution.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

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