

August 15, 2019

In-Delta Water Users Post Outstanding Compliance Record for Calendar 2018 Water Use Reports

The California State Water Resources Control Board's Office of the Delta Watermaster has previously noted that all Licensees with authorized points of diversion within the Legal Delta had filed annual Reports of Licensees for water diverted during calendar 2018, as required.

Senior water right claimants (those claiming riparian and/or Pre-1914 water rights) were required to file their annual Supplemental Statements of Water Diversion and Use during calendar 2018 not later than July 2, 2019. As of today, 2,319 Supplemental Statements have been filed by senior water right claimants with points of diversion within the Legal Delta. Only 8 remain delinquent, and each of those claimants has provided our Office with both an explanation for the tardiness and an acceptable timetable for full compliance. Often the delays in reporting are the result of changes of ownership, tenants or cropping patterns during the reporting period.

The Delta water users' ability to comply with the annual reporting requirement is the result of improved two-way communication between diverters and the Office of the Delta Watermaster as well as extensive outreach, and education by the North, Central and South Delta Water Agencies and the Delta water bar with their constituents and clients.

As a result of this outstanding record of compliance, the Office of the Delta Watermaster does not expect to issue any failure-to-file complaints for 2018 water use reporting. This is the first year that complaints have not been required to induce full compliance with the annual reporting requirement. In prior years, a few recalcitrant diverters came into reporting compliance only following formal enforcement action, often including fines or other penalties up to and including revocation of the licensed right to divert and use water. Thus, compliance for calendar year 2018 has conserved administrative resources for our Office as well as for the diverters and the Water Agencies.

For detailed information regarding annual water use reporting in the Delta, contact Kristi Matal, Communication and Outreach Specialist, in the Office of the Delta Watermaster by phone at: (916) 319-8264 or by email at: Kristi.Matal@waterboards.ca.gov.