Subject: WaterFix Hearing Notice of Schedule Change

Importance: High

Service List and Interested Parties,

Please read this email carefully because it contains important information concerning the schedule for Part 2 of the hearing on the water right change petition for the WaterFix Project.

On January 11, 2018, the Sacramento Valley Water Users (SVWU) submitted a motion to reorganize the witness panels for the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Department of Interior (collectively petitioners). East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD) joined in SVWU’s motion and requested more time to cross-examine petitioners’ witnesses. DWR opposed both motions in writing on January 17, 2018. These motions are still under consideration.

On January 12, 2018, Save the California Delta Alliance, et al. (SCDA) submitted a motion to continue Part 2 of the hearing for 90 days to allow “reformation” of the hearing to address ex parte communications between State Water Board staff and DWR, which SCDA alleges were unlawful. Subsequently, on January 15, 2018, the County of Sacramento, et al. submitted a similar motion seeking an indefinite continuance of Part 2 of the hearing to allow an investigation of the full extent of ex parte communications. Numerous parties joined in both motions.

The hearing officers have directed the WaterFix hearing team to advise the parties that the hearing days scheduled for January 18 through February 1, 2018, are cancelled to give the hearing officers time to review all four motions. Unless the hearing officers notify the parties of any additional changes to the hearing schedule, the parties should assume that Part 2 of the hearing will resume on February 2, 2018 with policy statements only. Unless rescheduled the evidentiary portion of Part 2 will resume on February 5, 2018.

Any responses to the motions for continuance, SVWU’s motion, or EBMUD’s request must be submitted to the cwfhearing@waterboards.ca.gov email account and service list by 12:00 noon, January 19, 2018. Replies to any responses will not be accepted.

Respectfully,

CA WaterFix Hearing Team

Phone: 916-319-0960
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/california_waterfix/water_right_petition.shtml
The most recent group of comments is now posted on the State Water Board's website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/california_waterfix/policy_statements/