
State Water Resources Control Board

August 28, 2026

Via Email

E. Robert Wright
Sierra Club California
bwrightatty@gmail.com

Brook Thompson
Save California Salmon
Brook@Californiasalmon.org

Re: Requests to Extend the Comment Period on the Final Draft Bay-Delta Plan and Provide Written Comments on the Supporting Final Staff Report

Dear E. Robert Wright and Brook Thompson:

On August 20, 2026, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) received a letter from Sierra Club California requesting an extension of the comment period for the final draft of updates to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed (Bay-Delta Plan or Plan). On August 24, 2026, the State Water Board received a similar letter from Save California Salmon requesting an extension of the comment period for the final draft of updates to the Bay-Delta Plan. Both letters also request the opportunity to provide additional written comments on the Staff Report in support of Sacramento/Delta updates to the Bay-Delta Plan.

In support of these requests, Sierra Club California and Save California Salmon reference the following statement in the State Water Board's January 7, 2026 letter¹ denying requests to extend the comment period on the partially recirculated draft Staff Report (Chapter 13): "Comments on the revised draft Bay-Delta Plan and Chapter 13 of the draft Staff Report will inform development of a final draft of the Plan and final draft Staff Report. Both the final draft Staff Report and final draft of the Plan will be available

¹ Available at:
https://waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/docs/2026/response-ext-req-010726.pdf

for public review before being considered for adoption by the Board at a future Board meeting, where the public will again have the opportunity to provide input.”

The State Water Board appreciates your comment and provides the following response. The State Water Board has provided several opportunities for oral and written comment on updates to the Bay-Delta Plan over many years and the supporting Staff Report and scientific basis reports. As stated above, those comments have informed development of the final draft Bay-Delta Plan and final Staff Report, which are the titles of the documents that will be considered by the Board at the October 28-29, 2026 Board Meeting described in the Notice. Those documents are not truly final unless and until the Board takes action to approve and adopt. The Board Meeting is the forum referenced in the January 7, 2026 letter where the Board Members will once again hear from the public.

Please note, the written comment period on the Staff Report closed February 2, 2026. The Staff Report is available to help inform review of the draft Bay-Delta Plan. With respect to comments on the draft Bay-Delta Plan, the State Water Board is accepting written comments on the changes included in the final draft Plan that were not included in the December 2025 version of the Plan. As identified in the August 19, 2026 Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment and Board Meeting to Consider Adoption of Sacramento/Delta Updates to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed (Notice),² written comments on the final draft Plan must be received no later than September 18, 2026.

The State Water Board will be moving forward with the process as planned and will not be extending the comment period on the final draft Bay-Delta Plan. However, Board staff are available to meet with interested parties to answer questions and facilitate Plan review. Requests to meet with Board staff may be submitted to:
SacDeltaComments@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik Ekdahl", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Erik Ekdahl for Eric Oppenheimer
Chief Deputy Director

² Available at: https://waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar/docs/2026/oct/notice-2026finaldrftbdp.pdf

cc:

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