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State Water Resources Control Board



Arnold Schwarzenegger
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Tam M. Doduc, Board Chair

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT DRAFT STRATEGIC WORKPLAN FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY/ SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA ESTUARY

This notice is to advise interested persons that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will receive public comments on the *June 2008 Draft Strategic Workplan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary* (Bay-Delta). The State Water Board will also consider adopting the strategic workplan at its Board meeting on July 16, 2008. The agenda for the July 15 and 16 Board meeting will be sent at a later date.

BACKGROUND

The State Water Board, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (collectively, Water Boards) share responsibility to protect beneficial uses of water in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta). The Water Boards recently adopted resolutions directing staff to prepare a strategic workplan to ensure the comprehensive and coordinated protection of beneficial uses in the Bay-Delta, and the equitable administration of water rights.¹ The draft strategic workplan must prioritize and describe the scope of individual activities and provide specificity regarding timelines and resource needs for implementing coordinated activities in the Bay-Delta. The workplan is now available for public review and comment.

The workplan describes a suite of priority activities the Water Boards will pursue over the next five years to address the water supply and environmental crisis in the Bay-Delta.² The workplan includes a wide range of flow-related, water quality, and water use efficiency actions that will better protect the beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta, including the public trust, while recognizing the diverse public interests in the Bay-Delta. The activities in the workplan are comprised of complementary proposed and ongoing activities, which will be coordinated to address the Bay-Delta crisis. Workplan activities are responsive to priorities for the Bay-Delta identified by the Governor and Delta Vision.

¹ On December 4, 2007, the State Water Board adopted Resolution 2007-0079. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted Resolution R5 2007-0161 on December 6, 2007, and the San Francisco Regional Quality Quality Control Board adopted Resolution R2 2008-0009 on January 30, 2008.

² This workplan focuses on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta), but also involves Bay-Delta wide issues.

California Environmental Protection Agency

The workplan includes the following elements:

- 1) Water quality and contaminant control;
- 2) Comprehensive monitoring program;
- 3) Southern Delta salinity and San Joaquin River flow objectives;
- 4) Suisun Marsh management, preservation, and restoration;
- 5) Comprehensive review of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, water rights, and other requirements to protect fish and wildlife beneficial uses and the public trust;
- 6) Activities to ensure that the State Water Project's (SWP) and Central Valley Project's (CVP) methods of diversion in the Delta are reasonable, beneficial, and protect the public trust;
- 7) Water right compliance, enforcement, and other activities to ensure adequate flows to meet water quality objectives;
- 8) Water use efficiency; and
- 9) Other activities

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

A copy of the draft strategic workplan can be found at http://www.waterrights.ca.gov/baydelta/strategic_workplan.htm. Compact Discs (CD™) and hard copies of the workplan can also be requested by contacting Diane Riddle at (916) 341-5297, or by email at driddle@waterboards.ca.gov. Copies on CD are available free of charge. Hard copies are available for the cost of reproduction.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

Written comments on the draft strategic workplan must be submitted by 12 noon on Wednesday, July 9, 2008. In order to allow adequate time for processing and review, comments **will not** be accepted any time after the deadline. Parties who wish to provide written comments should provide one electronic copy, one original hard copy, and 15 paper copies of their comments. Any documents submitted electronically must be in Adobe™ Portable Document Format (PDF). Electronic submittals of documents less than 15 megabytes in total size (incoming mail server attachment limitation) should be sent via electronic mail to both driddle@waterboards.ca.gov and commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov, with a subject of "Bay-Delta Strategic Workplan Comments." Electronic submittals to the State Water Board of documents greater than 15 megabytes in total size should be sent by regular mail in PDF format on CD.

All hard copies should be sent to:

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812

Written comments may also be faxed to Ms. Townsend at (916) 341-5620, or delivered by hand to the following address:

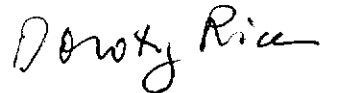
Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
Cal/EPA Headquarters
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Couriers delivering comments must check in with lobby security and have them contact the State Water Board's first floor mailing room. Any comments sent by electronic mail or fax must be followed by a mailed hard copy with an original signature.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Diane Riddle, Staff Environmental Scientist, at (916) 341-5297, or Erin Mahaney, Senior Staff Counsel, at (916) 341-5187.

Date **JUN 13 2008**



Dorothy Rice
Executive Director