

**M e m o r a n d u m**

Date : January 6, 2004

To : Gita Kapahi, Chief  
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State Water Resources Control Board  
Post Office Box 2000  
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From : Department of Water Resources

Subject : Scoping Workshop to Review the 1995 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta Estuary

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) provides the following comments regarding the scope of issues for the Board's periodic review of the 1995 San Francisco Bay/Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta Water Quality Control Plan (Plan). DWR supports the Board's review and urges the Board to consider the issues in context with recently proposed Delta actions and programs that could provide useful information to help evaluate whether modifications to existing water quality objectives are needed. For example, in early 2004 DWR will be releasing its Draft EIR/EIS on the proposed South Delta Improvement Program (SDIP). Depending on the scope of the Board's review and comments by other parties, DWR may find that recent studies prepared for the SDIP EIR/EIS should be presented to the Board. Therefore, DWR requests that the Board schedule an additional scoping workshop in summer 2004 to allow parties time to review documents regarding these and other recent actions to better evaluate the scope of issues to include in the review. DWR and other parties could also use this time to better coordinate their comments to the Board on the issues.

In general, DWR recommends that the Board's review be limited to specific issues that would require an amendment to the Plan. Such amendments may be necessary to resolve inconsistencies with court rulings, update information, or clarify ambiguities in the Plan. In the December 10<sup>th</sup> Notice of the Public Workshop, the Board provided a list of issues developed from suggestions made by interested parties during recent years. DWR supports reviewing most of the issues identified in the Public Notice because modifications of objectives identified by these issues would help resolve pending disputes or clarify the Plan. Specifically, DWR supports the Board's review of the following noticed issues: the Vernalis Flow objectives, the chloride objectives at Contra Costa Water District pumping plant #1, the western Suisun Marsh salinity objectives, and the Table 4 Monitoring Program.

— In addition, DWR recommends reviewing the following issues to update and clarify specific objectives:



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- Export/Inflow Ratio. Review and clarify the language describing when to use the 3-day running average versus 14-day running average of the Export Limits E/I Ratio (Plan footnote 23).
- Suisun Brackish Tidal Marsh. Review the 2001 Suisun Ecological Workgroup (SEW) Report on beneficial uses and water quality objectives for brackish tidal marshes of Suisun Bay prepared for the Board in support of the periodic review (See Program of Implementation B.3). For a copy of the SEW Report, please see the Interagency Ecological Program website:  
[http://www.iep.ca.gov/suisun\\_eco\\_workgroup/final\\_report/SEWFinalReport.pdf](http://www.iep.ca.gov/suisun_eco_workgroup/final_report/SEWFinalReport.pdf)

Of interest to the Board regarding this issue is the upcoming Suisun Marsh Science Conference, on March 1 and 2, 2004, hosted by the Bay-Delta Science Consortium. The Conference will include the latest science on Suisun Marsh.

- X2. Review of X2 (Roe) Objective for Delta Outflow to consider flexible implementation similar to the flexibility taken with the E/I Ratio.

DWR recommends that the Board not modify the salmon narrative objective because State and federal fish and wildlife agencies and other interested parties are monitoring implementation of the objective. In addition, the success of several restoration actions have yet to be fully evaluated. Therefore, review of this issue, at this time, appears unnecessary.

DWR suggests that the Board update the Plan's Program of Implementation (POI) to include new information related to measures to implement the water quality objectives. For example, the POI should be reviewed and updated with respect to recent actions taken by the regional water quality control board for meeting dissolved oxygen objectives. In addition, the significant actions taken to improve habitat conditions in the Delta under the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, and which are now carried out by the recently established California Bay-Delta Authority, should be reviewed and considered in the POI.

Thank you for consideration of these comments.



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Attachment

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