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State Water Resources Control Board

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP**  
**Summer and Fall Drought Related State Water Project and Central Valley Project**  
**Operations in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed**

**Wednesday, June 24, 2015 – 9:00 a.m.**

Joe Serna Jr.-CalEPA Headquarters Building  
Coastal Hearing Room  
(with overflow in the Byron Sher Auditorium)  
1001 I Street, Second Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) will hold a public workshop at the time and location noted above to receive public input on drought related operations of the State Water Project (SWP), operated by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), and the Central Valley Project (CVP), operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) watershed this summer and fall. Specifically, the State Water Board will receive input regarding proposed operations of the CVP to manage temperatures on the Sacramento River for the protection of winter-run Chinook salmon, and other related operations in the Delta watershed this summer and fall. This will be an informational workshop only and no formal State Water Board action will be taken.

**BACKGROUND**

California is entering its fourth consecutive year of below-average rainfall and very low snow pack, with the majority of the State currently experiencing exceptional drought conditions according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. In addition, eight of the last nine years, including Water Year 2015 have had below average runoff, which has resulted in chronic and significant shortages to municipal, industrial, agricultural, and wildlife refuge supplies and historically low groundwater levels. As a result of these drought conditions, on January 17, 2014, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency and directed the State Water Board and other agencies to take various actions to respond to the drought. The Governor has since issued additional Proclamations and Executive Orders extending and expanding the provisions of the prior Proclamation.

### Temporary Urgency Change Petition to Modify Bay-Delta Requirements

On February 3, 2015, the Executive Director of the State Water Board issued an Order that took action on a January 23, 2015 Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) filed by DWR and Reclamation to change water right conditions requiring the SWP and CVP to meet Delta flow and water quality objectives during February and March of this year in order to conserve water in storage and increase exports from the Delta for water supply purposes. The February 3 Order was modified on March 5 to change the export constraints and other requirements in the February 3 Order. On March 24, 2015, DWR and Reclamation requested approval of additional changes to flow and water quality requirements through September of this year. The Executive Director issued a modified Order based on that request on April 6, 2015, that approved changes through June. On May 21, 2015 DWR and Reclamation submitted a TUCP renewal request for changes to Delta flow and salinity requirements for July through September. The Executive Director expects to act on the May 21 request before July 1, 2015.

### Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan

Pursuant to State Water Board Order 90-5 and condition 6 of the April 6 TUCP Order, Reclamation was required to develop and implement a Temperature Management Plan for the Sacramento River to ensure that CVP operations will provide reasonable protection for winter-run Chinook salmon and other salmonids. In the planning process, the TUCP Order required that Reclamation address temperature control issues that occurred last year that led to the mortality of nearly all of the 2014 brood year of juvenile winter-run Chinook salmon. Specifically, despite modeling that indicated that Reclamation could achieve temperatures last year to protect winter-run, they were unable to do so. Reclamation attributed this circumstance to the inability to access cold water out of the side gates of the Shasta Dam Temperature Control Device as expected under the temperature modeling.

Reclamation submitted a draft temperature management plan for the Sacramento River in mid-April, and an updated plan on May 4, 2015 to the Executive Director of the State Water Board and the National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (collectively fisheries agencies). The temperature modeling that Reclamation provided indicated that temperatures suitable for winter-run Chinook salmon of 56 degrees Fahrenheit (F) could be maintained throughout the temperature control season at the proposed Clear Creek compliance location with the proposed operations.

Based on information indicating that Reclamation's draft plan would meet the 56 degree F temperature target at Clear Creek throughout the temperature control season, on May 14, 2015, the Executive Director provisionally approved the temperature management plan. In that approval the Executive Director indicated that the plan was required to be updated as necessary to ensure temperature compliance throughout the temperature control season and that Reclamation was required to prepare a final plan by June 1 for approval. In addition, the Executive Director also directed Reclamation to notify him immediately if there were any indications that the plan would not achieve temperature compliance throughout the temperature control season.

On May 29, 2015, the Executive Director met with staff from Reclamation, DWR and the fisheries agencies to discuss (1) updated temperature profile measurements taken at Shasta Lake indicating that the reservoir was warmer than expected and (2) associated temperature modeling information showing that it was very unlikely that Reclamation would be able to meet the 56 degree F temperature target with the operations provisionally approved two weeks earlier. Following the May 29 meeting, the Executive Director sent Reclamation a letter temporarily suspending the provisional approval of the draft temperature management plan and directing Reclamation to maintain releases from Keswick Reservoir below Shasta Lake at no more than the 7,500 cubic-feet per second (cfs) through June 10, and lower if possible to conserve additional cold water supplies.

Since May 29, 2015 State Water Board staff has been working with Reclamation, DWR and the fisheries agencies to develop a new plan of operations to protect winter-run Chinook salmon for the remainder of this season. The State Water Board expects to send a follow up letter on this matter early next week.

Information related to the TUCP process and the Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan are posted on the State Water Board's website at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/drought/tucp.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/tucp.shtml).

#### **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE WORKSHOP**

The Board will receive public input on the above issues, including proposed operations to protect winter-run Chinook salmon and SWP and CVP system-wide operational considerations associated with this matter. Specifically, the Board is interested in hearing input on the water supply and environmental considerations associated with the above issues. Information provided at the workshop may inform changes to the Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan.

#### **PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

The workshop will be informal. While a quorum of the State Water Board may be present, the Board will not take formal action at the workshop. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants, but the State Water Board and its staff may ask clarifying questions. The workshop is an opportunity for interested persons to provide input to the State Water Board. To ensure a productive and efficient workshop, oral comments will be limited to **five (5) minutes** or otherwise at the discretion of the Board Chair. The participants are encouraged to form panels when providing input to the State Water Board. Panels may be granted additional time for their comment period. Those participants who form panels should notify State Water Board staff in advance. State Water Board staff will attempt to accommodate panelists so that all participants have a chance to provide input.


#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THE WORKSHOP**

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Diane Riddle at (916) 341-5297 or [diane.riddle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:diane.riddle@waterboards.ca.gov), or to Ken Emanuel at (916) 341-5317 or [kenneth.emanuel@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kenneth.emanuel@waterboards.ca.gov). Additional information concerning the State Water Board's drought activities can be found at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/drought/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/index.shtml) or at the links indicated above.

**PARKING, ACCESSIBILITY AND SECURITY**

The CalEPA Building is accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations at the CalEPA Building are requested to contact Tanya Cole, Equal Employment Opportunity Office, at (916) 341-5880. Due to enhanced security precautions at the CalEPA Building, all visitors are required to register with security staff prior to attending any meeting. To sign in and receive a visitor's badge, visitors must go to the Visitor and Environmental Services Center, located just inside and to the left of the building's public entrance. Depending on their destination and the building's security level, visitors may be asked to show valid picture identification. Valid picture identification can take the form of a current driver's license, military identification card, or state or federal identification card. Depending on the size and number of meetings scheduled on any given day, the security check-in could take up to fifteen minutes. Please allow adequate time to sign in before being directed to the hearing.

June 13, 2015  
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Date

  
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Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board