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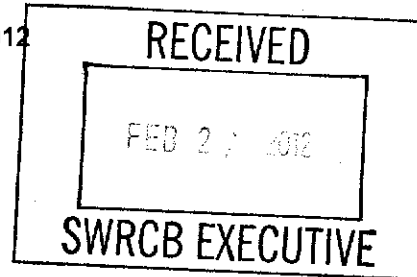
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February 23, 2012



Charlie Hoppin, Chair
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State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Schedule of Actions to Update the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan)

Dear Chair Hoppin and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the thirty-one member counties of the Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC), I appreciate the opportunity to submit comments regarding the schedule of actions to update the Bay-Delta Plan.

You recently received a recommended schedule for Phase II of the Bay-Delta Plan jointly developed by a coalition of water and power agencies. RCRC supports this recommended schedule and approach. It will provide the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) with the best available science and information that it needs to update the Bay-Delta Plan, as well as providing for a meaningful opportunity for the parties to participate in the process.

RCRC has previously expressed our concerns to both the State Water Board (2010 Delta Flows Criteria) and the Delta Stewardship Council (Delta Plan) regarding the reliance on increased flows to protect beneficial uses in the Bay-Delta. RCRC is concerned that implementing a "more natural flow regime" will have significant impacts on water availability for existing beneficial uses in the Delta and areas upstream of the Delta. The recommended workshops and hearings format will allow for a robust discussion of the science and assist in determining the impact of various water quality objectives proposals on these other beneficial water uses.

In conclusion, RCRC respectfully requests that the State Water Board adopt the recommended schedule.

Please feel free to contact me at (916) 447-4806 or kmannion@rcrcnet.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kathy Mannion
Legislative Advocate