

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

**Fourth Workshop
to Review Standards for the
San Francisco Bay/
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary**

July 13, 1994--10:00 AM
(and July 14, 26 and 27, if necessary)

1416 Ninth Street, First Floor Auditorium
Sacramento, California

SUBJECT OF WORKSHOP

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is convening this workshop to seek comments and recommendations regarding standards for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Estuary or Delta).

BACKGROUND AND SWRCB PROCESS

This workshop is the fourth in a series of four workshops on the above subject. Previous workshops were held on April 26, May 16, and June 14. The background on this subject and the process for SWRCB action upon completion of this workshop series are described in the notice for the April workshop. If you need copies of the prior workshop notices, call Ellyn Sekul at (916) 657-1357.

REGULATORY BASIS FOR ACTION

California Water Code Section 13240 requires that water quality control plans adopted by the SWRCB must be periodically reviewed and may be revised. In addition, the Federal Clean Water Act requires a triennial review of water quality control plans.

The SWRCB is authorized to establish State policy for water quality control, including surface water management programs, by California Water Code Sections 13140 to 13142.

KEY ISSUES

1. What fish and wildlife standards should the SWRCB evaluate as alternatives in this review?

The SWRCB intends to evaluate a broad range of alternative fish and wildlife standards during this review. Numerous parameters characterize conditions in the Bay-Delta watershed, and many of these parameters can be regulated by the SWRCB. Examples include, but are not limited to: outflow, river flows, temperature, exports, diversions, fish survival indices, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and barrier location and operation. The SWRCB solicits recommendations from the participants on alternative fish and wildlife standards that provide both a comprehensive package of protection and a reasonable level of protection, considering the competing demands for water from the Bay-Delta Estuary. The SWRCB also intends to recommend appropriate action by other agencies on factors that contribute to the decline of fish and wildlife resources in the Bay-Delta Estuary but are beyond either SWRCB regulatory control or the scope of this review. Suggestions regarding recommendations to other agencies are solicited.

2. How should the economic and social effects of alternative standards be determined?

Standards for the Bay-Delta Estuary have the potential to affect a large portion of the State. California Water Code Section 13241 requires that economic factors be

considered when the SWRCB establishes water quality objectives.

The SWRCB requests that workshop participants who intend to undertake an economic analysis of a set of alternative standards identify their intentions at the workshop. Additionally, the SWRCB requests that any economic analysis from the participants clearly identifies the following elements.

- a) Water supply impacts of alternative standards.
- b) The economic impacts resulting from these water supply impacts.
- e) Exactly how economic impacts are defined or determined.
- c) Assumptions regarding water transfers.
- d) Assumptions regarding the substitution of groundwater for Delta water.

The SWRCB requests recommendations from participants on methods to be used in the SWRCB's analysis of economic and social effects. The SWRCB is particularly interested in the following issues.

- a) Methods to estimate the effect of reduction in Delta water deliveries on irrigated acreage and cropping patterns.
 - b) Methods to estimate the extent of water transfers likely to occur after reductions in Delta water deliveries.
 - c) Assumptions on the duration of unemployment following job losses occurring as a result of changes in cropping patterns or reductions in irrigated acreage.
 - d) Methods to estimate the amount of water likely to be transferred after reductions in Delta water deliveries.
 - e) Methods of identifying other effects of changes in water supply.
- 3. Should the SWRCB request the CVP and SWP to implement portions of the draft standards prior to adoption of a water rights decision?**

After completion of this review of Bay-Delta Estuary water quality objectives, the SWRCB will initiate a water right proceeding in order to allocate responsibility to meet the standards among the water right holders in the Central Valley and to establish terms and conditions in water right permits. This

proceeding could take two years to complete, and the standards may not be achieved during this interim period. The SWRCB requests recommendations from the participants on the advisability of requesting the CVP and SWP to implement portions of the standards until such time as a water rights decision is adopted.

WORKSHOP PROCEDURES

The workshop will be informal, but a court reporter will be present to provide an accurate record of the proceedings. There will be no sworn testimony or cross examination of participants, but the SWRCB and its staff may ask clarifying questions.

Participants are requested to provide 20 copies of their comments and recommendations either prior to or at the time of the workshop for the use of the SWRCB and its staff. Additional copies for participants of the workshop should also be provided. Participants will be asked to orally summarize their comments and recommendations. Time limits of less than 20 minutes will likely be imposed on oral presentations by each participant. Participants with similar interests are requested to make joint presentations.

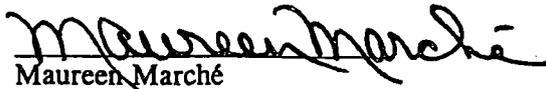
The SWRCB and its staff may consult with and request information from participants and other interested parties between the date of this notice and the release of the draft plan.

INFORMATION REGARDING WORKSHOP

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Thomas R. Howard, Chief, Bay-Delta Unit, at (916) 657-1873 or Barbara J. Leidigh, Senior Staff Counsel, at (916) 657-2102.

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

The attached map shows the location of the workshop and available parking. This site is accessible to persons with disabilities.


Maureen Marché
Administrative Assistant to the Board

June 14, 1994

The Resources Building
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Hearing Location
First Floor, Auditorium

