

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

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

September 21, 1994—9:00 AM
(and September 23, 29, October 3, 7, 13, 14, if necessary)

901 P Street, First Floor Hearing Room
Sacramento, California

SUBJECT OF WORKSHOP

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff is convening this workshop to review the technical merits of alternative regulatory proposals for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Estuary) and to seek consensus on a regulatory program for the Bay-Delta Estuary.

BACKGROUND AND SWRCB PROCESS

The SWRCB has held five workshops, on April 26, May 16, June 14-15, July 13-14, and September 1, 1994, to seek comments and recommendations regarding Bay-Delta Estuary standards. The SWRCB will hold a final workshop on October 19, 1994 to review the results of the staff workshop sessions prior to releasing its draft water quality control plan for the Bay-Delta Estuary in mid-December.

The background on this subject and the process for SWRCB action after release of its draft water quality control plan for the Bay-Delta Estuary 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 ISSUE

What are the technical bases and respective advantages and disadvantages of alternative fish and wildlife standards for the Bay-Delta Estuary?

SWRCB staff is evaluating various alternative sets of Bay-Delta Estuary standards. Although there are significant differences among these alternatives, they encompass a limited number of parameters with different magnitudes and durations. The parameters proposed for regulation are: spring outflow, X2 isohaline, Delta Cross Channel gate operation, spring flow on the San Joaquin River, fixed export restrictions, variable export restrictions (% inflow, QWEST, no exports below a designated outflow), outflow in other periods, biological indices, salinity, and pulse flows. The workshop sessions will review the technical bases for the regulation of the parameters listed above.

WORKSHOP PROCEDURES

The SWRCB's Executive Director will chair the workshop sessions. The conduct of the workshop will be discussed at the first session, followed by a brief staff presentation on the effects of the proposed regulatory alternatives on aquatic resources and water

supply. Discussion of the parameters subject to regulation will then begin in the order identified above. Separate discussions will be held on each parameter. Participants proposing regulation of a particular parameter are requested to present a description of the technical rationale for their recommendation. A group discussion of the regulatory parameter will follow each set of presentations.

The SWRCB requests the following parties to present the technical bases for their recommendations regarding regulation of individual parameters: Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, California Urban Water Agencies, David Schuster/Chuck Hansen, Jones and Stokes representing Delta Wetlands, and SWRCB staff. Other groups proposing a specific standard for one of the regulatory parameters are also welcome to present their recommendation. Such groups are asked to contact Thomas Howard at the phone number below.

Upon completion of the process outlined above, SWRCB staff will prepare a complete regulatory alternative that both protects beneficial uses and reflects the comments of the participants as much as possible. This alternative will be the subject of discussion at the last session of the staff workshop, and, after modification as appropriate, it will be discussed before the SWRCB at the October 19, 1994 workshop.

The SWRCB requests that participation by any single agency or group be limited to no more than two persons in order to keep the discussion group to a

manageable size. The participants are also requested to limit their comments on alternative standards to technical issues. If requested, the Executive Director may set aside time during the workshop for policy and legal statements.

The workshop will be informal. No court reporter will be present. There will be no sworn testimony. The participants will be provided the opportunity to ask questions and there will be group discussions of the issues raised.

Participants are requested to provide copies of any informational material to other participants at the workshop. Time limits on presentations and on the length of discussion of a particular issue may be imposed by the Executive Director.

INFORMATION REGARDING WORKSHOP

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Thomas R. Howard, Chief, Bay-Delta Unit, at (916) 657-1873.

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

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

Maureen Marché
 Maureen Marché

Administrative Assistant to the Board

September 9, 1994

