
State Water Resources Control Board

SAVE THE DATE

CONSIDERATION OF ADDITION OF TRIBAL BENEFICIAL USES TO WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY/SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) will hold an informational item to provide information regarding the potential addition of tribal beneficial uses to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan). In 2017, the State Water Board established and defined tribal beneficial uses. The addition of tribal beneficial uses to the Bay-Delta Plan would provide for explicit recognition and reasonable protection of these beneficial uses within the context of the Bay-Delta Plan, which is focused on instream flow and associated habitat conditions and implementation through water right related actions. Tribal representatives and other interested persons will have an opportunity to provide input before tribal beneficial uses may be added to the Bay-Delta Plan, including during public review and comment on an upcoming draft staff report evaluating potential changes to the Bay-Delta Plan planned for release this summer.

Given the significant importance of and interest in this matter, the State Water Board is issuing this “save the date” to provide advanced notice of this informational item. The Board will issue a formal notice for this informational item as part of its regular Board meeting agenda at least 10 days prior to the Board meeting. The Board meeting agendas can be found at the following location:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar/

The informational item will be held during the State Water Board meeting on

Wednesday, June 7, 2023
(anticipated to be begin at 9:30 am)

in the
Coastal Hearing Room
Joe Serna, Jr. – Cal/EPA Building
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA
and via
Video and Teleconference
(including the opportunity for remote participation)

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND

The State Water Board is currently in the process of updating and implementing the Bay-Delta Plan, which identifies (1) beneficial uses of water in the Bay-Delta watershed, including municipal and industrial, agricultural, and fish and wildlife uses, (2) water quality objectives to reasonably protect the identified beneficial uses, and (3) a program of implementation to achieve those objectives. In December 2018, the State Water Board updated the Lower San Joaquin River flow and southern Delta salinity components of the Bay-Delta Plan. The State Water Board is in the process of considering amendments to other components of the Bay-Delta Plan focused on the Sacramento River and its tributaries, Delta eastside tributaries, Delta outflows, and interior Delta flows (Sacramento/Delta Update to the Bay-Delta Plan), as well as possible updates to the Lower San Joaquin River flow components of the Bay-Delta Plan related to a Tuolumne River voluntary agreement.

As part of the tribal outreach and engagement efforts related to the update and implementation of the Bay-Delta Plan, the State Water Board initiated formal consultation and engagement efforts with California Native American Tribes. Also, to provide more information to tribes on the update and implementation of the Bay-Delta Plan and to receive additional input, the State Water Board held listening sessions for tribal representatives that focused on tribal engagement and strategies for incorporating Traditional and Tribal Cultural and Ecological Knowledge into these processes. Tribal representatives have requested the specific recognition of tribal and subsistence fishing beneficial uses to the Bay-Delta Plan. These beneficial uses were defined and established in 2017 and include Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB), Subsistence Fishing (SUB), and Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL) beneficial uses.

Currently, the State Water Board is preparing a Staff Report/Substitute Environmental Document in support of the proposed Sacramento/Delta Update to the Bay-Delta Plan that is planned for release this summer. Tribal beneficial uses are being considered as part of the upcoming draft staff report. Additional opportunities for input on the update to the Bay-Delta Plan will be provided after the draft staff report is released for public comment and before the Board considers adoption of the Sacramento/Delta Update to the Bay-Delta Plan.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information regarding the State Water Board's planning and implementation process for the Bay-Delta Plan, visit the [Bay-Delta webpage](#). Additional information regarding consultation with California Native American Tribes is available on the [Tribal Consultation webpage](#).

If you would like to receive email updates about the State Water Board's Bay-Delta planning and implementation processes, please [sign up](#) for the Board's "Bay Delta Notices" email list (under Water Rights).

CONTACT

If you require special accommodations or have any questions, please email Bay-Delta@waterboards.ca.gov.

Date May 11, 2023

Courtney Tyler
Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board