



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Water Rights

1001 I Street, 14th Floor ♦ Sacramento, California 95814 ♦ 916.341.5300
P.O. Box 2000 ♦ Sacramento, California 95812-2000
Fax: 916.341.5400 ♦ www.waterrights.ca.gov



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Consideration of the Pelagic Organism Decline in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary

Tuesday, January 22, 2008
Session will commence at 10:00 a.m.
at
Joe Serna, Jr. /Cal-EPA Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California

SUBJECT OF WORKSHOP

The purpose of this workshop is to receive information regarding the Pelagic Organism Decline (POD) in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta).¹ At the workshop, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will collect information that may be used in a proceeding to update the current Water Quality Control Plan for the Bay-Delta (Bay-Delta Plan) or to support other actions that the State Water Board may consider to improve fishery resources of the Bay-Delta.

BACKGROUND

The Bay-Delta includes the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Suisun Marsh, and the embayments upstream of the Golden Gate. The Delta and Suisun Marsh are located where California's two major river systems, the Sacramento and the San Joaquin Rivers, converge to flow westward to meet the incoming seawater tides flowing through the San Francisco Bay. The watershed of the Bay-Delta is a critical source of water supply for much of California. The watershed is a source of drinking water for two-thirds of the State's population. It supplies some of the State's most productive agricultural areas, and it provides water for fish, wildlife, and other public trust uses within and upstream of the Bay-Delta Estuary.

In recent years there has been a marked decline in numerous pelagic fishes in the Delta and in Suisun Bay. The on-going decline of delta smelt, a federal and State threatened species, is of particular concern.

On December 4, 2007, the State Water Board adopted [Resolution No. 2007-0079](#), which describes water quality and water right activities the State Water Board, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board will

¹ A quorum of the members of the State Water Board may be present at the workshop.

undertake in the Bay-Delta to address the POD and other significant Bay-Delta issues. The State Water Board committed in this resolution to prepare a strategic workplan by June 2008 that prioritizes and describes the scope of these activities and provides specificity regarding timelines and resource needs for implementing coordinated activities in the Bay-Delta, including those related to addressing the POD. The State Water Board is seeking information through this workshop to inform these water quality and water right activities.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION IN THE WORKSHOP

The State Water Board is seeking to obtain information and specific recommendations for actions to improve fishery resources that have been developed since the State Water Board's June 19, 2007 workshop on POD issues. At the current workshop, the State Water Board requests that participants address the following matters:

- 1) The status of the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) report summarizing the latest POD work team efforts;
- 2) The findings of toxicological studies related to the POD, including ammonia discharge and its effect on the lower trophic level of the Delta food chain;
- 3) The significance of scientific information derived from critically low population levels of pelagic species;
- 4) Any new findings related to effects of water exports, invasive species, and contaminants;
- 5) A status update on the development of a delta smelt refuge; and
- 6) Short-term and long-term actions the State Water Board should consider under its various authorities to improve habitat conditions for fishery resources.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Participants are required to provide their written materials, including scopes of work and study plans, by 12 p.m. on January 8, 2008. At the workshop, participants will be given an opportunity to summarize and supplement their written materials with oral presentations. In order to ensure a productive and efficient workshop in which participants have an opportunity to participate, time limits may be imposed on oral presentations. Participants with similar comments are requested to make joint presentations.

The workshop will be informal. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants, but the State Water Board and its staff may ask clarifying questions.

The State Water Board requests that 15 copies of written comments be sent to:

Ms. Isabel Baer
Environmental Scientist
Bay Delta/Special Projects Unit
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Hand and special deliveries can be delivered to:

Division of Water Rights - Records Unit
1001 "I" Street, 2nd floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Participants are encouraged to also submit their comments electronically. Documents submitted electronically must be in Adobe™ Portable Document Format (PDF). Electronic submittals to the State Water Board of documents less than 15 megabytes in total size (incoming mail server attachment limitation) may be sent via electronic mail to: gwilson@waterboards.ca.gov, with a subject of "Pelagic Organism Decline Workshop". Electronic submittals to the State Water Board of documents greater than 15 megabytes in total size should be sent by regular mail in PDF format on compact disk (CD™) media.

Each participant is requested to bring additional copies of any written submittals to the workshop for the use of the other participants.

INFORMATION REGARDING WORKSHOP

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Isabel Baer, Environmental Scientist, Bay-Delta Unit, at (916) 341-5416, or Erin Mahaney, Senior Staff Counsel, at (916) 341-5187.


PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

The enclosed map shows the location of the Joe Serna, Jr. (Cal EPA) Building and public parking sites in Sacramento. The Joe Serna, Jr. (Cal EPA) Building, Coastal Hearing Room is accessible to persons with disabilities.

Due to enhanced security precautions at the Joe Serna, Jr. (Cal EPA) Building, all visitors are required to sign in prior to attending any meeting. Visitors can sign in and obtain badges in the Visitor and Environmental Services Center, which is just inside and to the left of the building's public entrance. Visitors may be asked to show valid picture identification. Valid identification can take the form of a current driver's license, military identification card, or state and federal identification cards. Depending on the size and number of meetings scheduled on any given day, the security check-in could take from three to fifteen minutes. Please allow adequate time to sign in before being directed to your meeting.

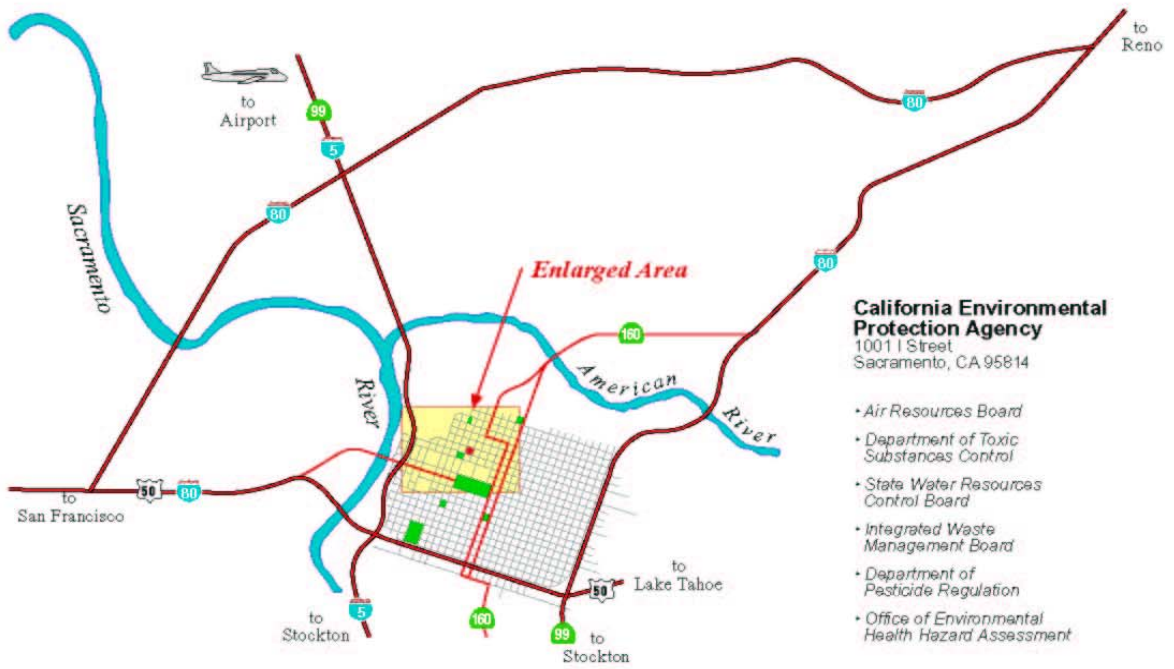
December 11, 2007

Date

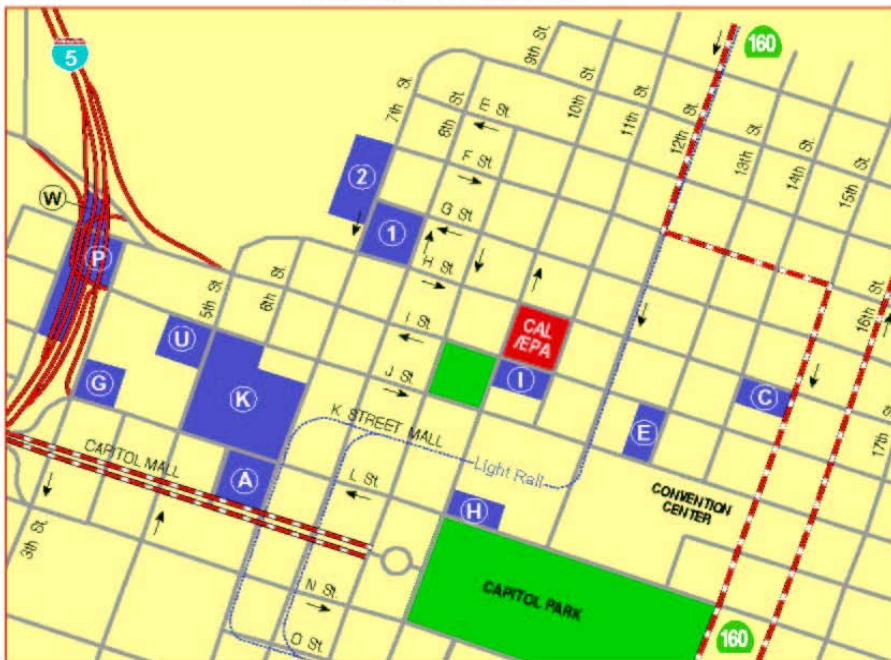


Jeanine Townsend
Acting Clerk to the Board

Enclosure: Map



Parking Lot Locations



Parking Lot Locations

- Lot 1 (7th & G St.)
- Lot 2 (7th & G St.)
- Lot A (7th & Capitol)
- Lot C (14th & H St.)
- Lot G (3rd & L)
- Lot H (10th & L)
- Lot I (10th & I, 11th & I)
- Lot K (6th & J/L, 7th & K)
- Lot P (2nd & I)
- Lot U (5th & J)
- Lot W (2nd & I St.)