

Proposal for Phase 2 Bay-Delta Workshops

Submitted by
Sacramento Valley Water Users



I Determination of stakeholder groupings for presentations at workshops

During the June 19, 2012, meeting, the State Water Resources Control Board (“Water Board”) should determine the appropriate stakeholder groupings for presentations at the workshops. It is proposed that there be seven stakeholder groups, as follows:

- State and federal regulatory agencies/ fishery agencies
- State and federal resource management agencies
- NGO/ environmental organizations
- In Delta water suppliers
- State Water Project/Central Valley Water Project (“SWP-CVP”) contractors
- San Joaquin Valley water suppliers
- Sacramento Valley water suppliers

Each of these stakeholder groups would be allotted 1 hour for the presentation of their technical information during each workshop.

II. Proposed Questions/Revised Workshop Notice

The Water Board will issue a notice no later than June 22, 2012, that provides specific questions for each of the proposed workshops, so that information will be submitted to inform the Water Board members and staff on what, if any, changes should be made to the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan. Proposed questions for inclusion in the revised workshop notice are identified below:

Ecosystem Changes and the Low Salinity Zone

Questions:

1. How has the ecosystem (including but not limited to the low-salinity zone) changed from predevelopment (1850) to today, and how have those changes affected ecosystem functions that affect growth, survival, reproduction, and abundance of aquatic species? In answering this question, please address physical, biological, and hydrologic/hydraulic changes in the Delta environment and its watershed.
2. What are appropriate modeling tools and measurement parameters that should be used to assess these changes and/or to understand the low-salinity zone in the future?

Pelagic species

Questions:

1. What are the key requirements for each life stage of each pelagic species of concern?
2. How have ecosystem changes affected the ability of pelagic species to satisfy these key requirements?
3. How have these ecosystem changes affected pelagic species abundance?
4. Are changes to the 2006 Bay Delta Plan necessary to reasonably protect pelagic species, and if so, what changes are appropriate?
5. Are there additional modeling analyses or other tools that should be used to measure and reasonably protect pelagic species?

Salmonids

Questions:

1. What are the key requirements for each life stage of each salmonid species of concern?
2. How have ecosystem changes affected the ability of salmonid species to satisfy these key requirements?
3. How have these ecosystem changes affected salmonid species abundance?
4. Are changes to the 2006 Bay Delta Plan necessary to reasonably protect salmonid species, and if so, what changes are appropriate?
5. Are there additional modeling analyses or other tools that should be used to measure and reasonably protect pelagic species?

Analytic Methods and Results

Questions:

1. What types of analyses should be completed to identify and to estimate potential effects of any proposed changes to the Water Quality Control Plan?
2. What tools and data are needed to assess the likely impacts of the actions being considered by the Water Board. The impacts assessment should include, but not be limited to, environmental, fishery, water supply, hydroelectric, greenhouse gas emissions, socioeconomic, and groundwater impacts? How certain or uncertain are these impacts and effects?

3. What are the expected beneficial and adverse outcomes of the specific actions being considered by the Water Board and how will these outcomes be demonstrated and over what time frame?
4. What are the categories of effects, including resource trade-offs, that are likely to occur if any changes are made to the Water Quality Control Plan?

III Pre-submittals

Each party/group of parties wishing to submit scientific/technical information must submit a notice of participation to the Water Board by July 1, 2012. The Water Board will send out contact information to participants not later than July 15, 2012.

Each party/group of parties will be allowed to submit scientific/technical information that responds to the questions in the Water Board notice. These materials must be signed by one or more individuals with appropriate scientific/technical expertise, who must include CVs or resumes. Policy statements are not part of these proceedings.

Each party/group of parties is encouraged to include with the scientific/technical information an executive summary (not more than 5 pages) that provides brief responses to the workshop questions.

Pre-submittal material will be due two weeks before the workshop. Materials must be submitted to the Water Board in electronic format (preferably PDF) and simultaneously e-mailed to all participants. The Water Board will post all submissions at least one week before the date of the workshop.

IV Workshop Procedures

Each group of stakeholders submitting scientific/technical information by the pre-submission deadline will be given a specified period of time during the workshop to: (i) briefly summarize the written submissions, (ii) identify areas of agreement and areas of disagreement with the written submissions by other participants, and (iii) offer explanations for the agreements/disagreements.

Any presenter using visual materials (*i.e.*, Powerpoints, maps, graphs, etc.) during the workshop that were not included in the written submission must bring ___ paper copies (in color) to the workshop and must send electronic copies of those materials to the Water Board and the other participants immediately after the workshop.

The Water Board will reserve approximately ___hours of time in addition to the time allocated to groups of stakeholders to allow Water Board members and staff to ask follow-up/clarifying questions of the presenters. Questions may be asked at any time during the workshop, at the discretion of the Chair.

A court reporter will be present at each workshop. Transcripts of the workshops shall be made available to interested stakeholders upon request at fees established by the court reporter.

V Post Workshop

The facilitator shall prepare a draft report summarizing the discussion at each workshop within 45 days of the workshop. The summary report will briefly identify areas of agreement and disagreement/controversy, and will seek to explain the reasons(s) the presenters disagreed. The facilitator will circulate the draft report to the workshop participants for review and comment.

The facilitator shall convene a meeting of the workshop participants after the release of each workshop summary report to discuss the contents of the report. Participants will have 30 days after the release of the facilitator's report to send comments on that report to the Water Board. The facilitator shall finalize each report after consideration of comments received from the stakeholders.