

THE NEWSLETTER IS BACK!

In January 2010 the State Water Board released the first issue of a newsletter devoted to the subject of water rights. Recognizing the need for outreach, the plan was to focus on a specific water right related topic each month, and create an ongoing dialogue with stakeholders and the public about the complex work we do to protect California's waters and ensure its proper allocation. Although the first newsletter received a positive response, subsequent issues stalled due to higher work priorities within the Division of Water Rights (Division).

We have designed a more simplified newsletter with the goal of providing monthly issues. Future newsletters will include short articles on the varied topics of water rights, and wherever possible, each article will include specific addresses to more information posted on the Division's website.

Any questions or comments regarding this newsletter can be directed to Marie Hoffman at mhoffman@waterboards.ca.gov

New FAQs for Statements of Diversion and Use Program.

The January 2010 issue of this newsletter was designed to spread the word about Senate Bill 8, passed by the Legislature in the Seventh Extraordinary session of 2009 (SBX7 8). SBX7 8 enacted major changes in the Water Code regarding the filing of Statements of Diversion and Use, including new administrative penalties for failure to file, and for filing false information.

Since the release of that issue, the State Water Board has received numerous questions regarding both the changes in law, and the implications of those changes. A new Frequently Asked Questions page specific to the topic as well as added instructions to a newly updated Initial Statement form have been posted. The new information is easily accessible from the "Announcements" section on our Internet homepage:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights

TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE:

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Update on Delta Ecosystem Flow Criteria.

The State Water Board has been conducting a public informational proceeding to receive scientific information in order to develop new flow criteria for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem necessary to protect public trust resources. As part of the March 2010 Informational Proceeding, participants were asked to summarize in their closing comments what flow criteria are necessary to protect public trust resources in the Delta under current conditions. Closing comments were due by noon on April 14, 2010. State Water Board staff received 19 sets of closing comments from participants or groups of participants. Staff will develop a report, with assistance from the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Water Resources, and other participants, based on the information received during the Informational Proceeding. A resolution to consider adoption of the report will be considered by the State Water Board at its August 3, 2010 meeting. Closing comments and additional information are posted on the State Water Board website at:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/deltaflow/

Public Outreach: Online Filing of Water Diversion and Use Reports.

On April 27 and 28, Division staff conducted remote location training classes for the public in Yreka, Redding, Willits and Santa Rosa, on how to use the new online water diversion and use reporting component of the Electronic Water Rights Information Management System (eWRIMS). The classes consisted of (1) a Powerpoint presentation on the background of the reporting system and its benefits both for diverters and for State Water Board data management, and (2) a demonstration of how to file a Supplemental Statement of Diversion and Use online. The Division is planning a further training session for Thursday May 27, 2010 in Riverside for online reporting of Groundwater Extraction Notices.

A Internet version of this training class will also be posted to the eWRIMS Training Resources web page:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ewrims/training.shtml

Fee Stakeholders Meeting.

On May 17, 2010, State Water Board staff held a meeting of the water right fee stakeholders. The purpose of the meeting was to update the stakeholders on the current status of the Water Right Fund and to discuss the proposed fee schedule for Fiscal Year 2010-11. Staff presented alternative methods of fee allocation for stakeholder discussion. Contact Bob Rinker if you would like more information: rrinker@waterboards.ca.gov

Order on Extension of Time Related to the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA).

At its June 15, 2010 Board meeting, the State Water Board will consider a proposed order on extension of time under Permit 11605 of U.S. Bureau of Reclamation at Stampede Reservoir on Little Truckee River in Sierra County. TROA was negotiated pursuant to the Truckee-Carson-Pyramid Lake Water Rights Settlement Act, to make operations at existing Truckee River reservoirs more effective and efficient, and to expand their use in order to provide multiple benefits. A number of water right actions are needed in order to implement TROA, including changes to a number of California water right permits and licenses, to allow the water storage, transfers, and exchanges provided for in the Negotiated Agreement. Among the necessary water right actions is a time

extension on Reclamation's Stampede Reservoir permit. For more information, visit the TROA Hearing web page at:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/hearings/truckee_river/index.shtml

Water Transfers.

From December 2009 through May 2010, the State Water Board received eleven petitions for temporary change to authorize the temporary (one year or less) transfer of water, three of which have since been withdrawn. On May 5, 2010, the Division issued Order 2010-0017-DWR, approving a change in place of use to deliver 10,000 acre-feet of State Water Project (SWP) water (originally intended for Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District and Empire West Side Irrigation District) to Westlands Water District. The remaining active petitions for temporary change are in the public notice phase. These notices are available for viewing online at:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/transfers_tu_notices/

DWR has also petitioned for a long-term transfer involving parties and terms similar to Order 2010-0017-DWR, with a transfer period of 2011-2027. The Division expects to issue the public notice for the petition for long-term transfer by the end of May. Last year's consolidated place of use action for the Central Valley Project and SWP was approved by State Water Board Order 2009-0033. No new transfers will be initiated pursuant to Order 2009-0033, and all but one have been completed. The one ongoing transfer, an exchange between Arvin-Edison Water Storage District and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, was started in October 2009 and should be completed by May 2010.

Records Unit Expansion.

The Division has planned a major remodel of its second floor Records Unit during the month of July. The unit's demand for records space has doubled in the past five years, and we want to provide added security of hard copy records. The planned expansion will create over 1,000 square feet of additional space to provide for (1) a hard copy records viewing area for members of the public which is partitioned off from the records storage area, and (2) expanded records storage capacity and improved organization of water right records. Construction is expected to last the entire month of July. For the duration

of construction, the Records Unit will be closed to the public for purposes of viewing hard copy water right records.

Water Rights Monthly Reports.

Each month, mid-month, the Division posts on its website a report on the actions it has completed in the previous month. Our monthly reports can be viewed on this web page:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/publications_forms/available_documents/progress_reports/index.shtml

Subscription Information.

To conserve resources, paper copies of the California Water Rights Newsletter will only be mailed out in special cases. The Internet is the sole means of regular distribution. If you wish to be notified when a new issue has been posted, please sign up for the Water Rights Newsletter email list:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/press_room/newsletter/index.shtml