



# State Water Resources Control Board



**Linda S. Adams**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

**Division of Water Rights**  
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**Arnold Schwarzenegger**  
Governor

## **SECOND REVISED NOTICE<sup>1</sup> OF PUBLIC STAFF WORKSHOP<sup>2</sup> AND ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON PROPOSED MODELING ALTERNATIVES**

### **Consideration of Potential Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary Relating to Southern Delta Salinity and San Joaquin River Flow Objectives**

Commencing at 9:00 a.m.  
on  
**Wednesday, April 22, 2009**  
at  
Joe Serna, Jr. (Cal/EPA) Building  
Sierra Hearing Room  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, California

#### **SUBJECT OF WORKSHOP**

The purpose of this staff workshop is to receive information and conduct detailed discussions regarding potential amendments or revisions to the southern Delta salinity and San Joaquin River flow objectives included in the 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary and their implementation. The original notice for this workshop was issued on February 13, 2009. A revised notice for this workshop was issued on March 27, 2009, explaining the process that will be used at the April 22, 2009 workshop, and identifying potential future meeting dates. This second revised notice further modifies the process that will be used at the workshop and includes as attachments proposed modeling alternatives for the southern Delta salinity and San Joaquin River flow objectives and associated questions for discussion at the April 22, 2009 workshop.

#### **FORMAT OF WORKSHOP**

The workshop will begin with opening remarks by one or more members of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and their staff. Following these opening statements, staff will provide presentations of the attached proposed modeling alternatives for

<sup>1</sup> The February 13, 2009 staff workshop notice and March 27, 2009 revised notice remain in effect except for the changes noted herein.

<sup>2</sup> A quorum of the State Water Board members may be present at the workshop. No regulatory action will be taken.

***California Environmental Protection Agency***

the southern Delta salinity and San Joaquin River flow objectives and associated questions that are proposed for discussion by participants during breakout sessions. Participants will then be partitioned into smaller breakout groups to facilitate discussion of these questions. Two breakout sessions will be held, with one focused on southern Delta salinity and one focused on San Joaquin River flows. The previously noticed third breakout session on administrative process will not be held. At the completion of the two breakout sessions, the entire group will reconvene and discussions will be summarized. Individual participants will then have an opportunity to comment, and to summarize and supplement their previously submitted written materials. The final agenda for this meeting is attached and posted at: [http://www.waterrights.ca.gov/baydelta/wq\\_controlplanning.html](http://www.waterrights.ca.gov/baydelta/wq_controlplanning.html).

## PROCEDURAL MATTERS

**Additional written comments on the attached proposed modeling alternatives should be submitted by 12:00 noon on May 15, 2009.** Staff proposes to begin modeling of these alternatives in June of 2009. Consequently, it is important that interested persons submit any comments they may have by the date requested. To ensure a productive and efficient workshop in which all interested persons have an opportunity to participate, time limits will be imposed on oral presentations. Participants with similar comments are requested to make joint presentations. 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 any additional written materials/comments be sent to:

Chris Carr  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Rights  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Hand and special deliveries can be delivered to:

Chris Carr  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Rights  
Cal/EPA Headquarters  
1001 "I" Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Participants are encouraged to also submit their materials/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: [bay-delta@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:bay-delta@waterboards.ca.gov), with a subject of "**Comment Letter –Southern Delta Salinity/San Joaquin River Flows WQCP 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. The State Water Board will post on its website copies of all comments submitted for the workshop for the information of and use by other participants.

## INFORMATION REGARDING THE WORKSHOP

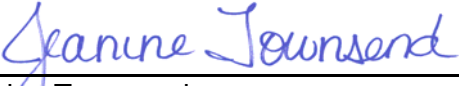
Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Chris Carr, Environmental Scientist, at (916) 341-5305 or [ccarr@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:ccarr@waterboards.ca.gov), or Erin Mahaney, Senior Staff Counsel, at (916) 341-5187 or [emahaney@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:emahaney@waterboards.ca.gov).

## PARKING, ACCESSIBILITY, AND SECURITY

The attached map shows the location and parking for the Joe Serna Jr./Cal-EPA Building in Sacramento. The Joe Serna Jr./Cal-EPA Building is accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations at the Joe Serna Jr./Cal-EPA Building are requested to contact Catherine Foreman, Office of Employee Assistance, at (916) 341-5881.

Due to enhanced security precautions at the Cal/EPA Headquarters Building, all visitors are required to register with security staff prior to attending any meeting. To sign in and receive a visitor's badge, visitors must go to the Visitor and Environmental Services Center, located just inside and to the left of the building's public entrance. Depending on their destination and the building's security level, visitors may be asked to show valid picture identification. Valid picture identification can take the form of a current driver's license, military identification card, or state or federal identification card. Depending on the size and number of meetings scheduled on any given day, the security check-in could take up to fifteen minutes. Please allow adequate time to sign in before being directed to the hearing.

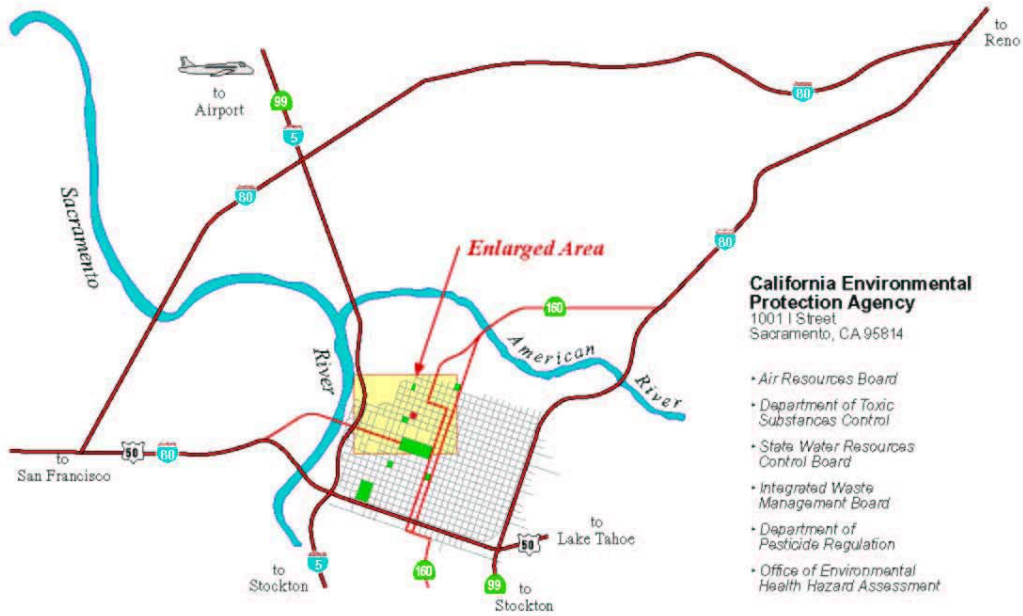
\_\_\_\_\_  
April 17, 2009  
Date

  
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Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board

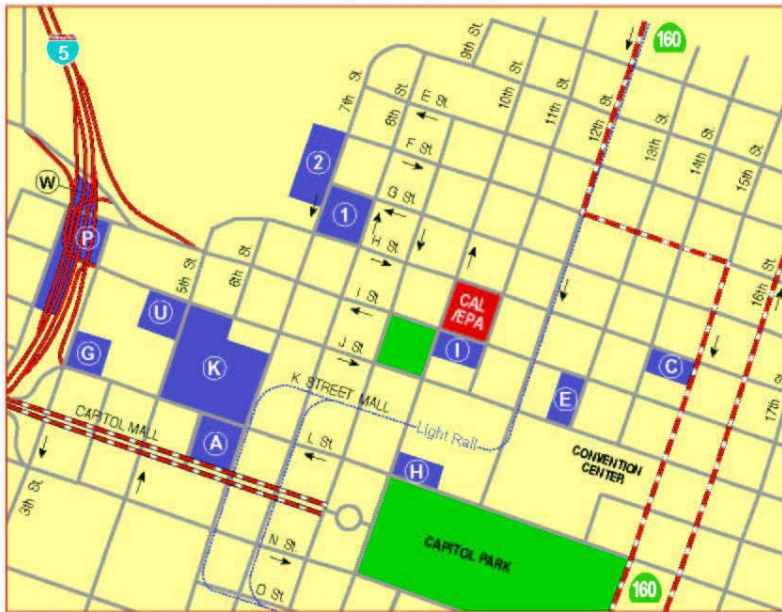
### Attachments:

- A. Map of Cal/EPA Building and Surrounding Parking Areas
- B. Revised Workshop Agenda (April 17, 2009)
- C. Salinity Handout for April 22, 2009 Bay Delta Water Quality Control Planning Workshop (April 17, 2009 Draft)
- D. San Joaquin River Flow Handout for April 22, 2009 Bay Delta Water Quality Control Planning Workshop (April 17, 2009 Draft)

# Attachment A: Map of Cal/EPA Building and Surrounding Parking Areas



## 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.)

**PUBLIC STAFF WORKSHOP**

**Consideration of Potential Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary relating to Southern Delta Salinity and San Joaquin River Flow Objectives**

April 22, 2009  
at 9:00 a.m.  
Cal/EPA Headquarters  
1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA  
Sierra Hearing Room

**REVISED AGENDA**

- ❖ **9:00 to 10:00**      **Introduction / Organization / Staff Presentations (75 min.)**
- ❖ **10:00 to 10:15**      **Organize into groups / break (15 min.)**
- ❖ **10:15 to 11:50**      **Breakout Session #1: Southern Delta Salinity Objectives (95 min.)**
- ❖ **11:50 to 12:50**      **Lunch (60 min.)**
- ❖ **12:50 to 2:25**      **Breakout Session #2: San Joaquin River Flow Objectives (95 min.)**
- ❖ **2:25 to 2:35**      **Break (10 min.)**
- ❖ **2:35 to 3:35**      **Summary of Breakout Sessions (60 min.)**
- ❖ **3:35 to 4:45**      **Closing Remarks : Individual Participants / Board Members / Staff (70 min.)**

Notes:

- a) All participants will have an opportunity to discuss each topic as part of breakout groups that will consist of approximately 10-25 people. State Water Board staff will facilitate discussions and take notes for each breakout group. All participants will reconvene following the breakout group sessions, and an elected group representative (from the public) will provide a summary for all workshop participants. Participants will also be given an opportunity at the end of the workshop to provide individual comments.
- b) This meeting will not be webcast.

**Attachment C: San Joaquin River Flow Handout for April 22, 2009 Bay Delta Water Quality Control Planning Workshop (April 17, 2009 Draft)**

**PROPOSED MODELING ALTERNATIVES FOR SOUTHERN DELTA SALINITY OBJECTIVES AND ASSOCIATED QUESTIONS**

These alternatives are to be used to inform modeling, and eventually, to understand the effects of establishing a specific set of water quality objectives that reasonably protect the use. They may need to be expanded or modified based on modeling results. Because the focus is on modeling, the no-project alternative and California Environmental Quality Act baseline will not be discussed at this meeting.

1. Monthly average electrical conductivity (EC) at Brandt Bridge, of 0.7 mmhos/cm from April through August, and 1.0 mmhos/cm from September through March - no Vernalis objective applies
2. Monthly average EC at Vernalis only, of 0.7 mmhos/cm from March through September and 1.0 mmhos/cm from October through February
3. Monthly average EC at Vernalis only, of 1.0 mmhos/cm in all months
4. Annual flow weighted average EC at Vernalis only, of 1.0 mmhos/cm and maximum monthly average EC at Vernalis only, of 1.5 mmhos/cm

A. Questions on Alternatives (60 Minutes)

1. Is this a sufficiently broad range of alternatives?
  - 1.1. Do the alternatives appropriately consider seasonality, averaging period, and applicable location?
  - 1.2. Should other factors/issues be considered, such as water year type?
2. Is there any other one question that should be asked and answered by the group?

B. Questions on Information Needs (30 Minutes)

1. As part of our solicitation for this process, have you supplied us with the information you think we need for establishing and evaluating alternatives for the southern Delta salinity objectives?
  - 1.1. Specifically, what information is available regarding the potential economic considerations of adopting these alternatives?
2. If not, (a) what has not been supplied, (b) who should or will provide that information, and (c) when will it be provided?
3. Are there any other/different modeling efforts that will be needed to establish and evaluate alternatives for the southern Delta salinity objectives other than those identified below?
  - Transient state modeling evaluation (outgrowth of ongoing Hoffman analyses) – to be completed by 3<sup>rd</sup> party contract
  - CALSIM2 and DSM for hydrology– to be completed by the Department of Water Resources
  - Economics – to be determined
4. Staff intends to meet with the southern Delta salinity workgroup and rely upon a modeling workgroup to get additional feedback. Do you have any comments or suggestions?

**Attachment D: San Joaquin River Flow Handout for April 22, 2009 Bay Delta Water  
Quality Control Planning Workshop (April 17, 2009 Draft)**

**PROPOSED MODELING ALTERNATIVES FOR SAN JOAQUIN RIVER FLOW OBJECTIVES  
AND ASSOCIATED QUESTIONS**

**Proposed Modeling Alternatives**

These alternatives are to be used to inform modeling, and eventually, to understand the effects of establishing a specific set of water quality objectives that reasonably protect the uses. They may need to be expanded or modified based on modeling results. Because the focus is on modeling, the no-project alternative and California Environmental Quality Act baseline will not be discussed at this meeting.

1. Monthly average set percentage of unimpaired flows at Vernalis – High\*
2. Monthly average set percentage of unimpaired flows at Vernalis – Medium\* (to be reflective of the existing requirement and Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan (VAMP))
3. Monthly average set percentage of unimpaired flows at Vernalis – Low\*

A. Questions on Alternatives (60 Minutes)

1. Is use of a fixed percentage of unimpaired flows a reasonable approach?
2. Is this a sufficiently broad range of alternatives?
  - 2.1. Do the alternatives adequately consider seasonality, averaging period, and applicable location?
  - 2.2. Should other factors/issues be considered, such as water year type?
  - 2.3. Should an additional fixed annual quantity of water that is adaptively managed be considered?
3. Is there any other one question that should be asked and answered by the group?

B. Questions on Information Needs (30 Minutes)

1. As part of our solicitation for this process, have you supplied us with the information you think we need for establishing and evaluating alternatives for the San Joaquin River flow objectives?
  - 1.1. Specifically, what information is available regarding the potential economic considerations of adopting these alternatives?
2. If not, what has not been supplied, who should or will provide that information, and when will it be provided?
3. Are there any other/different modeling efforts that will be needed to establish and evaluate alternatives for San Joaquin River flow objectives other than those identified below?
  - Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Salmon Population Model – to be completed by DFG
  - CALSIM2 and DSM for hydrology – to be completed by the Department of Water Resources
  - Economics – to be determined
4. Staff intends to form workgroups for San Joaquin River flow and modeling to get additional feedback. Do you have any comments or suggestions?

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\*Percentages to be determined