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Subject: Hearing Request on Reclamation's TUCP for Vernalis Objectives

On April 9, 2014, the United States Bureau of Reclamation filed a temporary urgency change petition (TUCP) requesting the State Water Resources Control Board provide relief from Reclamation's water right permit terms that require it to release water to meet the Vernalis flow objectives. Early next week, the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority (SJTA) will submit a protest to the State Water Board and (if applicable) objections to any approval thereof. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections, 767, 804(c), 806(c), and Water Code sections 1435 and 1438, the SJTA requests the State Water Board schedule a formal hearing with the opportunity to present evidence, call and cross-examine witnesses to resolve outstanding protests. Because relief from the Vernalis flow objectives will affect Stanislaus and San Joaquin River operations occurring on the Rivers in real-time, the SJTA requests the hearing be scheduled as soon as possible, but at least sufficiently timely to ensure Reclamation is able to satisfy the Vernalis flow objectives if the protest is successful.

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