

## **Possible Formats and Questions for Phase II<sup>1</sup> Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Planning Workshops**

### **Proposed Format:**

- Workshops facilitated by Dr. Brock Bernstein
- Materials responsive to workshop questions submitted at least two weeks in advance and posted on State Water Board website
- Panel presentations responsive to workshop questions:
  - Invited Expert Panel: organized by Delta Science Program Lead Scientist Dr. Peter Goodwin
  - Water Users Panel: organized by Dr. Bernstein
  - Non-governmental Organization (NGO) Panel: organized by Dr. Bernstein
- Open public comments: includes comments from those not participating in panels and other comments
- Questions from Board members and staff: as needed during presentations and at conclusion of presentations
- Summary report: prepared by Dr. Bernstein summarizing points of agreement and disagreement, sources of disagreement and areas of uncertainty; opportunities for participants to comment on report will be provided

\*Note- this alternative may result in the need to delay some of the workshops to allow time for the Invited Expert Panel to be formed.

### **Alternate Format:**

- Workshops facilitated by Dr. Brock Bernstein
- Materials responsive to workshop questions submitted at least two weeks in advance and posted on State Water Board website
- Panel presentations responsive to workshop questions (organized by Dr. Bernstein):
  - 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 Project contractors
  - Sacramento Valley water suppliers
- Open public comments: includes comments from those not participating in panels and other comments
- Questions from Board members and staff: as needed during presentations and at conclusion of presentations

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<sup>1</sup> Phase 2 will examine whether changes are needed related to key issues identified in the 2009 Staff Report for the Periodic Review of the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan (2009 Staff Report): (1) Delta outflow objectives, (2) export/inflow objectives, (3) Delta Cross Channel Gate closure objectives, (4) Suisun Marsh objectives; (5) potential new reverse flow objectives for Old and Middle Rivers; (6) potential new floodplain habitat flow objectives; (7) potential changes to the monitoring and special studies program, and (8) other potential changes to the program of implementation. The State Water Board will also consider other potential changes to the Bay-Delta Plan that were not specifically addressed in the 2009 Staff Report, including issues that are identified through the scoping process. The State Water Board may also consider information that is produced as part of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) currently being developed.

- Summary report: prepared by Dr. Bernstein summarizing points of agreement and disagreement, sources of disagreement and areas of uncertainty; opportunities for participants to comment on report will be provided

\*Note- San Joaquin Valley water suppliers are not included as a panel though they may make comments during the open public comment session. San Joaquin River flows and southern Delta water quality issues will be the subject of future workshops and hearings and are not the subject of these workshops.

## **Proposed Questions:**

### Workshop #1-Ecosystem Changes and the Low Salinity Zone:

1. What additional scientific information should the State Water Board consider to inform potential changes to the Bay-Delta Plan relating to ecosystem changes and the low salinity zone that was not addressed in the 2009 Periodic Review of the 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the Bay-Delta and the 2010 Report on Development of Flow Criteria for the Delta Ecosystem<sup>2</sup>? For large reports or documents, what pages or chapters should be considered? What is the level of scientific uncertainty regarding the foregoing information? What changes to the Bay-Delta Plan should the State Water Board consider based on the above information to address existing circumstances and changing circumstances such as climate change and BDCP?
2. How should the State Water Board address scientific uncertainty and changing circumstances, including climate change, invasive species etc? Specifically, what kind of adaptive management and collaboration (short, medium, and long-term), monitoring, and special studies programs should the State Water Board consider related to ecosystem changes and the low salinity zone as part of this update to the Bay-Delta Plan?

Workshops #2 and #3 on Salmonids and Pelagic Organisms: similar questions to #1

### Workshop #4- Analytical Tools for Evaluating the Water Supply, Hydrodynamic, and Hydropower Effects of the Bay-Delta Plan:

1. What types of analyses should be completed to estimate the water supply, hydrodynamic, and hydropower effects of potential changes to the Bay-Delta Plan?
2. What analytical tools should be used to evaluate these effects? What are the advantages and disadvantages and limitations of these tools?

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<sup>2</sup> The State Water Board was directed by the Legislature to prepare the 2010 Delta Flows Criteria Report per the 2009 Delta Reform Act. The report did not consider any balancing of public trust resource protection with public interest needs for water. The State Water Board will consider other public interest needs for water, including municipal, industrial, agricultural, power and recreational uses, when it updates the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan.