

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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March 19, 2009

Anne Short
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
Division of Water Rights
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Notice of Preparation (NOP) and of Scoping Meeting for the Update and Implementation of the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary: Southern Delta Salinity and San Joaquin River Flows (SCH No. 2009022056)

Dear Ms. Short:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the subject NOP.

The proposed Project includes both 1) review and update of water quality objectives and the program of implementation in the Bay-Delta Plan and 2) changes to water rights and water quality regulation consistent with the program of implementation.

The Caltrans Local Development-Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Program is your partner in stewardship of the public interest, our part of which entails the State Highway System (SHS). In consideration of our responsibilities under CEQA, we are interested in providing comment on the proposal.

Generally, we would like to establish ongoing consultation and collaboration with SWRCB to ensure our existing Best Management Practices related to water quality and runoff in the relevant area are coordinated with your proposed updates where applicable. At the current level of review and with current staffing and furlough issues, further specificity will need to be offered at the scoping meeting on March 30. In the interim, we are assembling a focus group at Caltrans to formulate our talking points in future collaboration with SWRCB to address SHS implications for your updates.

Please let us know if we can be of assistance. My telephone number is 916.651.8201, and I can be reached via e-mail at: gary.arnold@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Gary S. Arnold
Statewide Local Development-Intergovernmental Review Coordinator
Office of Community Planning

c: State Clearinghouse
B. De Terra, Caltrans District 3 Planning
H. Behrooj, Caltrans HQ