

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – OFFICE OF THE DELTA WATERMASTER
MAY 3, 2016**

ITEM 5

SUBJECT

REPORT ON VOLUNTARY DIVERSION REDUCTION PROGRAM AMONG IN-DELTA RIPARIAN WATER RIGHT CLAIMANTS

DISCUSSION

In response to the fourth consecutive year of the drought in 2015, Delta farmers proposed the Voluntary Diversion Reduction Program last spring. Participants in the program agreed to reduce diversions in the 2015 growing season by 25 percent compared to 2013. In consideration of that commitment, the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) and the Office of the Delta Watermaster (Watermaster) agreed not to enforce deeper curtailments against those participants, if such curtailments were later ordered as a result of the drought.

Participation in the program was concentrated among riparian water right claimants in the central and southern areas of the Delta. A little over 180,000 acres were enrolled in the program by submitting farm-specific plans to reduce diversions. Participants reported surpassing the program goal of reducing diversion by 25% versus the same period in 2013, reporting a 32 percent reduction.

POLICY ISSUE

None. This is a report on a program carried out in 2015.

FISCAL IMPACT

None. This is an information item.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None. This is an information item.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None. This is an information item.