

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS
DECEMBER 8, 2021**

ITEM 13

SUBJECT

UPCOMING ACTIONS TO UPDATE AND IMPLEMENT THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY/SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA

DISCUSSION

The San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary Water Quality Control Plan (Bay-Delta Plan) establishes water quality objectives to protect beneficial uses of water in the Bay-Delta watershed, including fish and wildlife, municipal, and agricultural uses, and a program of implementation to achieve these objectives. The Bay-Delta watershed is a critical part of California's water supply system and provides habitat for fish, wildlife, and species with high ecological, economic, and cultural importance. In response to sharp declines and chronically low abundance of multiple native and migratory fish populations, the State Water Board initiated two proceedings to review and update, if necessary, Bay-Delta Plan flow and water quality objectives for protecting fish and wildlife. The first proceeding, referred to as the Lower San Joaquin River (LSJR)/Southern Delta update, was completed in 2018 and focused on flow objectives for the reasonable protection of fish and wildlife on the LSJR and its three salmon-bearing tributaries: the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced rivers. The second proceeding, referred to as the Sacramento/Delta update, is on-going and focused on flow related objectives for the reasonable protection of fish and wildlife on the Sacramento River and its tributaries, Delta eastside tributaries (including Calaveras, Cosumnes, and Mokelumne rivers), Delta outflows, and interior Delta flows.

The State Water Board is preparing to move forward with updating and implementing the Bay-Delta Plan. This Informational Item outlines the process and general timeline for implementing the 2018 Bay-Delta Plan amendments for LSJR flows and southern Delta salinity and a timeline for completing the Sacramento/Delta update to the Bay-Delta Plan, including consideration of voluntary agreements

POLICY ISSUE

None at this time. Informational Item.

FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time. Informational Item.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None at this time. Informational Item.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This item is being brought before the State Water Board for informational purposes only.