

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Wil Bruhns)  
MEETING DATE: November 12, 2008

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: **Consideration of a Resolution Approving the Strategic Workplan for Actions to Protect Beneficial Uses of the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary**

CHRONOLOGY: January 2008 - Board adopted a Resolution Specifying Actions the Water Boards Will Take to Protect Beneficial Uses of the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento San Joaquin Delta Estuary

DISCUSSION: Despite extensive effort and expense over the past decade to restore the Delta ecosystem, evidence of declines in populations of Delta species indicates that the system is not improving. The Water Boards are addressing these declines through the Bay-Delta Strategic Workplan. We have prepared a Tentative Resolution (Appendix A) for consideration by the Board that will approve the Workplan.

To ensure coordination among the Water Boards, as well as with the entities engaged in Delta planning efforts, the Water Boards formed the Bay-Delta Team, comprised of staff from the State Water Board Divisions of Water Rights and Water Quality, the Central Valley Regional Water Board, and this Water Board (collectively the Water Boards). In 2007, the Bay-Delta Team developed a suite of short and long-term actions for protecting beneficial uses of the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The actions were intended to complement and coordinate ongoing Delta-related activities. In December 2007 and January 2008, the Water Boards jointly adopted resolutions committing to the suite of actions and directing staff to develop a strategic workplan that describes the scope of the actions and specifies timelines and resource needs for implementing them.

The Bay-Delta Team prepared the draft Strategic Workplan for the Bay-Delta and distributed it for public comment in last June. In July, the State Water Board adopted a Resolution approving the Workplan with modifications made at its hearing. In general the revisions were minor, editorial or clarifying changes. The one significant change was the addition of a task to conduct fact finding proceedings on the sources of salt to the Delta, impacts of constant or variable salinity, the benefits of fish screens on in-Delta diversions, impacts of ammonia and toxicity, and the impacts of net outflow objectives. Depending on the amount of staff time required for these proceedings, timelines for other tasks in the Strategic Workplan may need to be extended.

Appendix B is the final Strategic Workplan, as approved by the State Water Board in July. In September, the Central Valley Regional Water Board approved the

Workplan. The Workplan both describes the actions the Water Boards will complete in the next five years to protect beneficial uses of water in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary and provides timelines and resource needs for implementing the actions. Workplan activities are divided into nine broad elements that cover a range of actions that implement the Water Boards' core water quality responsibilities and continue meeting prior Water Board commitments. They are also responsive to priorities identified by the Governor and the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force and build on existing processes, such as the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan, currently under development with the State Department of Water Resources as lead.

Those portions of the Workplan that most affect the San Francisco Bay Region, and towards which our staff resources will primarily be directed, include: implementation of the San Francisco Bay mercury TMDL, development and implementation of San Francisco Bay TMDLs for PCBs and selenium, review and reissuance of permits for cooling water discharges in Pittsburg, and participation in the development of the Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan.

Staff proposes this resolution be adopted as a joint statement of intent by the State Water Board and the Central Valley and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Boards.

RECOMMEN-     Adopt the Tentative Resolution  
DATION:

APPENDICES:    A. Tentative Resolution  
                  B. Strategic Workplan (available via the State Water Board's web page at  
[http://www.waterrights.ca.gov/baydelta/docs/strategic\\_plan/baydelta\\_workplan\\_final.pdf](http://www.waterrights.ca.gov/baydelta/docs/strategic_plan/baydelta_workplan_final.pdf))

# APPENDIX A

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

TENTATIVE RESOLUTION R2-2008-00XX

STRATEGIC WORKPLAN FOR ACTIONS TO PROTECT BENEFICIAL USES OF THE  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY/SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA ESTUARY

WHEREAS:

1. Resolutions were adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board – Resolution 2007-0079), Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Regional Water Board – Resolution R5-2007-0161), and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board – Resolution R2-2008-0009) (collectively the Water Boards) on December 4, 2007, December 6, 2007, and January 30, 2008, respectively, committing to take various actions to protect beneficial uses in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta).
2. The above-mentioned resolutions directed staff to prepare a strategic workplan that prioritizes and describes the scope of individual activities and provides specificity regarding timelines and resource needs for implementing coordinated activities in the Bay-Delta.
3. Water Boards' staff prepared the *June 2008 Draft Strategic Workplan for Activities in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary* that describes a suite of priority activities the Water Boards will pursue over the next five years to address the water supply and environmental crisis in the Bay-Delta. Workplan activities touch on a wide range of flow-related and water quality actions to better protect the Bay-Delta and the public trust, while still protecting diverse public interests.
4. The State Water Board adopted Resolution 2008-0056 on July 16, 2008, approving the Strategic Workplan for the Bay-Delta with some modifications to the June 2008 draft.
5. In the future, emerging information may warrant reevaluating activities identified in the Strategic Workplan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board adopts the July 2008 Strategic Workplan for Activities in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary.
2. Water Boards' staff will provide quarterly updates to the Water Boards on implementation of the Strategic Workplan and, as appropriate, recommend modifying activities in the workplan to ensure that the Water Boards' actions continue to protect beneficial uses in the Bay-Delta.

3. The Water Boards will consider modifying the Strategic Workplan as necessary to protect beneficial uses in the Bay-Delta.

### **CERTIFICATION**

I, Bruce H. Wolfe, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on November 12, 2008.

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**BRUCE H. WOLFE**  
Executive Officer

# APPENDIX B