



To promote the economic, social and environmental viability of Northern California by enhancing and preserving the water rights, supplies and water quality of our members.

March 19, 2009

Via Email (Bay-Delta@waterboards.ca.gov) and First Class Mail

Ms. Anne Short
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
P. O. Box 2000
Sacramento, California 95812-2000

Re: Initial Comments on SWRCB's February 13, 2009 Notice of Preparation (NOP) of Environmental Documentation For the Update and Implementation of the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary: Souther Delta Salinity and San Joaquin River Flows

Dear Ms. Short:

The Northern California Water Association (NCWA) submits these initial comments on the above-referenced matter, and advises the SWRCB that NCWA intends to remain engaged in the SWRCB's further review of its 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan).

NCWA represents 54 agricultural water districts and agencies, private water companies, and individual water rights holders with senior rights and entitlements to the surface waters of the Sacramento Valley. NCWA's members also have overlying and appropriative water rights to groundwater resources in Northern California, from the Northern reaches of Shasta County to Sacramento County, from the edge of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in El Dorado County to Glenn County, which extends to the Coast range. We appreciate the opportunity to submit these initial comments.

Based upon the SWRCB's February 13, 2009 NOP, and its supporting information, NCWA understands that the SWRCB is carefully phasing its approach to preparing the environmental documentation for the update and implementation of the Bay-Delta Plan. In this regard, the NOP confirms that, at this time, the SWRCB is only seeking comments from responsible and trustee agencies and interested persons concerning the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the environmental documentation relating to two particular

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components of the Bay-Delta Plan and their implementation, namely: (1) Southern Delta salinity; and (2) San Joaquin River flow objectives. The NOP further confirms that the SWRCB “will consult with public agencies and interested persons on other components of the project in the coming months, and will send out a supplemental notice requesting such consultation and providing an additional opportunity for public comment.” NOP at 2. Given this phased approach, and NCWA’s primary interests in addressing any aspects of the Bay-Delta Plan relating to the Sacramento River Basin, NCWA will wait until such time as the SWRCB issues any supplemental notice.

In the meantime, NCWA emphasizes that any Bay-Delta Plan updates related to Southern Delta salinity and San Joaquin River flow objectives must ensure that they do not result in any increased river flow objectives for the Sacramento River or other re-directed impacts to the Sacramento River Basin. To the extent that may occur, NCWA reserves its rights to provide further comments on the SWRCB’s environmental documentation.

NCWA appreciates the opportunity to submit these initial comments on the SWRCB’s NOP for its Bay-Delta update.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd N. Manley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Todd N. Manley
Director of Government Relations