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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
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MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

NOV 14 2016

Ms. Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla
Executive Director
Restore the Delta
42 N. Sutter Street, Suite 506
Stockton, CA 95202

Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla

Dear Ms. Barrigan-Parilla:

I am responding to your letter dated October 21, 2016, in which you requested the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) reschedule the Stockton public hearing on the proposed plan amendment and recirculated draft substitute environmental document for the Bay-Delta Plan Phase I Update from December 16 to a date in the second week of January 2017. You also requested an extension of the public comment period for the Working Draft Scientific Basis Report for the Phase II Update of the Bay-Delta Plan from December 16, 2016, to sometime in late February 2017.

Your letter requests that the State Water Board reschedule the Phase I Stockton hearing date to accommodate interested persons who leave for the holidays or have family and holiday commitments here and elsewhere. The State Water Board released the draft revised Substitute Environmental Document (SED) on September 15, 2016, with an initial 60-day public comment period. The State Water Board has extended the comment period from November 15, 2016, to January 17, 2017 – an approximately 120-day comment period – and added two additional public hearing dates for a total of five days of hearings throughout the region over a five-week period to accommodate and encourage additional public participation. Additional adjustment of these hearing dates would delay the State Water Board’s future review of the proposed action to protect beneficial uses.

Your letter requests that the State Water Board extend the public comment period for the Phase II working draft Scientific Basis Report due to the length of the report, interested persons’ concurrent participation in the WaterFix hearing, and holiday commitments. There is no requirement for the State Water Board to release a working draft Scientific Basis Report. The document itself is not a regulatory document. It is a working draft document released in its preliminary stages to obtain early input regarding any additional scientific information that should be considered for potential Phase II changes to the Bay-Delta Plan. The Report was released on October 19, 2016, with a 60-day public comment period and a public workshop scheduled for December 7, 2016. The workshop is informational only, and the State Water Board will not take any action. Delaying the comment period and workshop on this Report could delay actions to protect imperiled fish and wildlife beneficial uses and is not warranted given the status of fish and wildlife. Accordingly, the State Water Board does not intend to extend the public comment period for this report.

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla

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Public involvement is important to the State Water Board, and we appreciate the continued efforts and input from Restore the Delta. The State Water Board has already significantly expanded the outreach and public review period for Phase 1, and there will be many opportunities for further input on Phase 2 in the future.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Diane Riddle via e-mail at diane.riddle@waterboards.ca.gov or at (916) 341-5297. Written correspondence or inquiries should be addressed as follows: State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, Attn: Diane Riddle, P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000.

Sincerely,



Thomas Howard
Executive Director

cc: Board Members
State Water Resources Control Board

Tim Stroshane,
Policy Analyst
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