

State Water Resources Control Board

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE DISCUSSIONS DURING WORKING MEETINGS ON DRAFT SACRAMENTO/DELTA BAY-DELTA PLAN UPDATES

State Water Resources Control Board (Board) staff will hold 10 working meetings January through March 2025 to receive further input on [draft Sacramento/Delta updates](#) to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed (Bay-Delta Plan) that were released for public review and comment on October 25, 2024. For additional information about the working meetings, refer to the January 3 [letter](#) noticing the meetings.

To ensure productive discussions, meeting participants should review the relevant sections of the [October 2024 draft Bay-Delta Plan](#) and come prepared to discuss that day's meeting topics.

The following questions are also intended to help guide the discussions of input on specific provisions of the draft Bay-Delta Plan. This list will be updated with additional day's meeting topics.

January 28, 2025: Inflow Objective and Program of Implementation

- 1) Should the Board consider changes to the default unimpaired flow range of 45-65% for the inflow objective within the range of 35-75% of unimpaired flow (p. 50)?
- 2) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the provisions that require lower unimpaired flow levels (45% and 35%) when reservoir storage conditions are low (below 75% and 50% of flood control storage) in order to improve carryover storage conditions and reduce water supply effects during droughts (pp. 51-52)?
- 3) Should the Board consider methods other than water right curtailments to implement the numeric inflow objective consistent with the water right priority system (p. 52)?
- 4) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the initial compliance locations for the inflow objective or the processes for refining those locations (p. 52)?
- 5) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the provisions for adaptive implementation, including allowable flow shaping and moving up or down within the unimpaired flow range (p. 54)?
- 6) Should the Board consider modifications to the required timeline and provisions for implementation of the inflow objective (p. 52)?

January 29, 2025: Cold Water Habitat Objective and Program of Implementation

- 1) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the narrative cold water habitat objective (p. 56)?
- 2) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the list of those subject to initial cold water habitat implementation actions in Table 6 (p. 57)?
- 3) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the end of September carryover storage requirements in Table 7? Specifically, should the Board consider other types or sources of information to inform initial carryover storage requirements (pp. 58-59)?
- 4) What, if any, provisions in the draft Bay-Delta Plan should the Board consider modifying to prioritize temperature management over spring flows (pp. 51-52 and 54-55)?
- 5) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the components of the long-term temperature management strategies and annual temperature operations plans (p. 58)?
- 6) Should the Board consider modifications to the required timeline and provisions for implementation of the cold water habitat objective (p. 52)?

January 30, 2025: Inflow-Based Delta Outflow Objective and Program of Implementation

- 1) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the inflow-based Delta outflow objective (p. 62)?
- 2) Should the Board consider methods other than water right curtailments to implement the inflow-based Delta outflow objective consistent with the water right priority system (p. 62)?
- 3) Should the Board consider an exemption to the inflow-based Delta outflow objective for water rights in which the diversion and use of water is limited to irrigation of lands below sea level in the Legal Delta, or any modification to the terms of this exemption (pp. 62-63)?
- 4) Should the Board consider modifications to the required timeline and provisions for implementation of the inflow-based Delta outflow objective (p. 62)?

February 4, 2025: Methodology to Determine Water Unavailability and Implement the Bay-Delta Plan

- 1) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the provisions for developing, reviewing, and updating the implementation methodology to

determine water unavailability in conformance with water right priorities in order to implement the Bay-Delta Plan, including in the following instances (pp. 64-65):

- i) Water is not available at water right priorities regardless of instream flow requirements. These curtailments would apply to all water rights, including for water rights that may be part of an approved voluntary agreement, unless an approved exception to curtailment applies.
 - ii) Water is not available based on water right priorities due to responsibility for meeting the tributary inflow and the inflow-based Delta outflow objectives. These curtailments would not apply to water rights part of an approved voluntary agreement.
- 2) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the relevant information that will be considered in determining when water is unavailable (p. 65)?
 - 3) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the timeline to develop the implementation methodology and associated curtailment regulations (pp. 64-65)?
 - 4) Is there additional information the Board should include in the Bay-Delta Plan related to the implementation methodology and curtailment regulation?
 - 5) What, if any, other specific methods should the Board consider to implement the Bay-Delta Plan, including possible regulatory and VA provisions, consistent with water right priorities?

February 5, 2025: Monitoring and Evaluation for Regulatory Provisions

- 1) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the processes for establishing, reviewing, and revising the Bay-Delta Monitoring and Evaluation Program (BDMEP) (pp. 116-121)?
- 2) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the review and revision, data management and quality, reporting, and special study provisions of the BDMEP (pp. 118-121, A-12–A-13)?
- 3) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the required monitoring activities in the initial BDMEP (pp. A-1–A-11)?
- 4) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the types of monitoring activities required under the comprehensive BDMEP (pp. 120-121)?

February 13, 2025: Provisions for Continuation, Modification, or Termination of Voluntary Agreements (VAs)

- 1) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the process to continue, modify, or terminate the VAs (p. 103)?

- 2) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the list of items the Board would consider in determining whether to continue, modify, or terminate the VAs (pp. 103-104)?
- 3) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the draft criteria for the red, yellow, and green light provisions (pp. 104-105)?
- 4) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the process for considering whether to modify or terminate the VAs as part of annual and periodic review processes (pp. 105-106)?

February 19, 2025: VA Habitat Commitments and Accounting Provisions

- 1) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the process for VA non-flow habitat restoration accounting, including processes for approving modifications to the requirements (pp. 94-98)?
- 2) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the list of conditions that VA habitat projects must fulfill to be counted toward VA commitments (p. 94)?
- 3) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the design criteria for VA non-flow habitat restoration accounting (pp. 94-98, Table 15, Table 16)?
- 4) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the VA non-flow habitat restoration accounting protocols (pp. B-1–B-12)?

February 20, 2025: Monitoring and Evaluation for VA Provisions

- 1) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the processes and timelines for development and approval of supplemental VA science and monitoring activities (pp. 98-100)?
- 2) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the provisions for development and approval of VA hypotheses, metrics, targets, and monitoring (pp. 98-99)?
- 3) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the minimum requirements for VA hypotheses, metrics, targets, and monitoring (pp. 99-100)?
- 4) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the provisions for VA habitat suitability and habitat utilization and biological effectiveness assessments (p. 100)?
- 5) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the VA reporting requirements (pp. 101-102)?

February 27, 2025: VA Flow Commitments and Accounting

- 1) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the process for determining and approving the schedule for VA flow commitments, within or outside the flexibility brackets (p. 79)?
- 2) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the provisions for avoiding redirected impacts from implementation of VA flows and for cold water habitat (pp. 79-80)?
- 3) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the description and requirements of VA flow commitments (pp. 81-90)?
- 4) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the VA flow accounting requirements (pp. 91-93)?
- 5) What concepts and provisions should the Board consider in developing the specific VA flow accounting procedures in Appendix B, including for specific VA flow commitments and purchases?

March 4, 2025: Tribal Provisions

- 1) Should the Board formally designate Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL) beneficial uses of water in the Bay-Delta watershed as part of the Sacramento/Delta updates to the Bay-Delta Plan, and what, if any, additional information should the Board consider as part of the designation process (p. 11)?
- 2) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the tribal outreach and engagement provisions included in the draft Bay-Delta Plan (pp. 122-123)?
- 3) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the draft Bay-Delta Plan provisions for incorporating traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and tribal feedback and perspectives into the Bay-Delta planning and implementation processes (pp. 122-123)?
- 4) What, if any, modifications should the Board consider to the draft Bay-Delta Plan provisions for engaging with and incorporating input of California Native American Tribes into VA science and implementation processes (pp. 102-103)?