

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Staff Workshop to Review Proposals on Standards for the San Francisco Bay/ Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary

October 7, 13, 14, 1994--9:00 AM

901 P Street, First Floor Hearing Room
Sacramento, California

SUBJECT OF WORKSHOP

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff is convening this workshop to review the technical merits of alternative regulatory proposals for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Estuary) and to seek consensus on a regulatory program for the Bay-Delta Estuary.

BACKGROUND AND SWRCB PROCESS

The SWRCB has held five workshops, on April 26, May 16, June 14-15, July 13-14, and September 1, 1994, to seek comments and recommendations regarding Bay-Delta Estuary standards. An SWRCB staff workshop on this issue was also held on September 21, 1994. The SWRCB will hold a final workshop on October 19, 1994 to review the results of the staff workshop sessions prior to releasing its draft water quality control plan for the Bay-Delta Estuary in mid-December.

The background on this subject and the process for SWRCB action after release of its draft water quality control plan for the Bay-Delta Estuary are described in the notice for the April workshop. If you need copies of the prior workshop notices, call Ellyn Sekul at (916) 657-1357.

REGULATORY BASIS FOR ACTION

California Water Code Section 13240 requires that water quality control plans adopted by the SWRCB must be periodically reviewed and may be revised. In

addition, the Federal Clean Water Act requires a triennial review of water quality control plans.

The SWRCB is authorized to establish State policy for water quality control, including surface water management programs, by California Water Code Sections 13140 to 13142.

KEY ISSUE

What are the technical bases for alternative fish and wildlife standards for the Bay-Delta Estuary?

SWRCB staff is evaluating eight alternative sets of Bay-Delta Estuary standards. Although there are significant differences among these alternatives, they encompass a limited number of parameters of different magnitudes and durations. The parameters proposed for regulation are: spring outflow, X2 isohaline, Delta Cross Channel gate operation, spring flow on the San Joaquin River, fixed export restrictions, variable export restrictions (% inflow, QWEST, no exports below a designated outflow), outflow in other periods, biological indices, salinity and pulse flows. The workshop sessions will review the technical bases for the regulation of the parameters listed above.

WORKSHOP PROCEDURES

The SWRCB's Executive Director will chair the workshop sessions. An agenda for the workshops is attached to this notice.

The SWRCB requests the following parties to attend the workshop sessions to discuss the technical bases for regulation of the parameters listed above: Department of Fish and Game (DFG), Department of Water Resources (DWR), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), California Urban Water Agencies, and Jones and Stokes.

The discussion of each agenda item will begin with a summary (5 minutes) by the parties wishing to do so of their recommendation and its rationale. Handouts are encouraged to summarize a lengthy recommendation. The order of presentations will be USEPA, USFWS, NMFS, USBR, DFG, DWR, and other public and private interests. A general discussion will follow with the goal of reaching consensus. The SWRCB encourages the parties to focus on the resolution of technical and policy issues necessary for consensus.

Upon completion of the process outlined above, SWRCB staff will prepare a complete regulatory alternative that protects beneficial uses, balances this protection against a limited water supply, and reflects the comments of the participants as much as possible. This alternative will be discussed before the SWRCB at the October 19, 1994 workshop.

The workshop will be informal. No court reporter will be present. There will be no sworn testimony. The participants will be provided the opportunity to ask questions and there will be group discussions of the issues raised.

Participants are requested to provide copies of any informational material to other participants at the workshop. Time limits on presentations and on the length of discussion of a particular issue may be imposed by the Executive Director.

INFORMATION REGARDING WORKSHOP

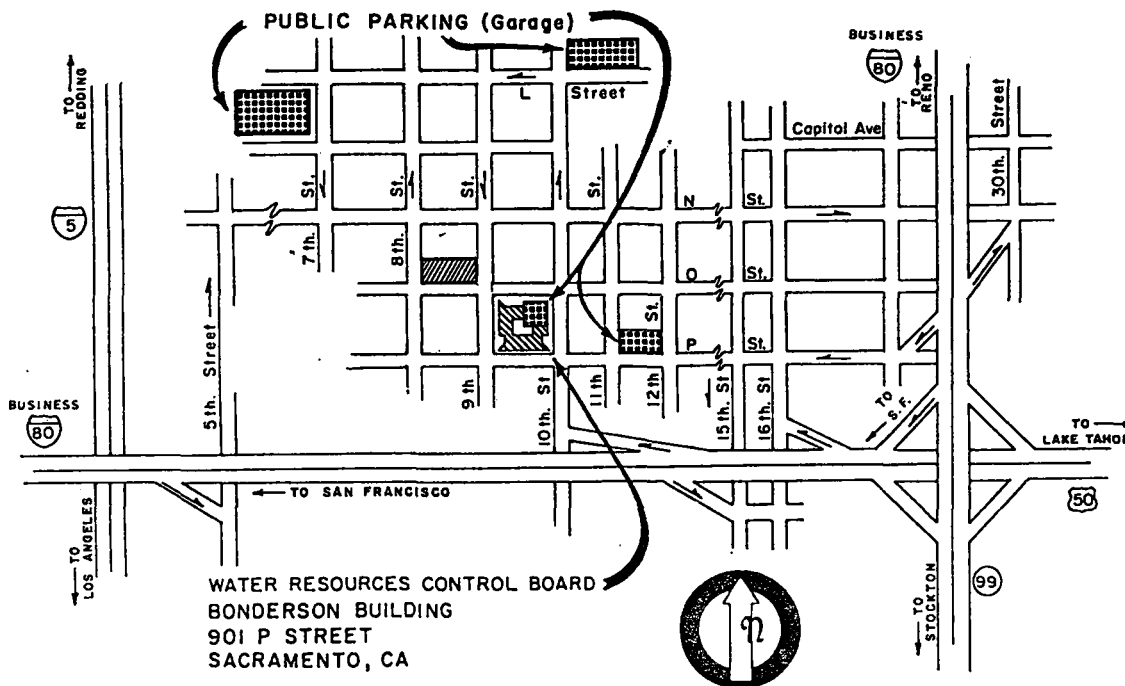
Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Thomas Howard, Chief, Bay-Delta Unit, at (916) 657-1873.

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

The map below shows the location of the workshop and available parking. This site is accessible to persons with disabilities.

Maureen Marché
 Maureen Marché
 Administrative Assistant to the Board

September 27, 1994



AGENDA FOR BAY-DELTA WORKSHOP SESSIONS

October 7

9:00 - 9:30 Status of water user's negotiations

9:30 - 10:00 Update on other proposals

10:00 - 12:00 Spring outflow for general Estuary protection

- Flow or salinity (X2 isohaline) based
- Magnitude of flow requirement or isohaline location (necessity of Roe Island)
- Standards based on hydrologic year classification or sliding scales
- Compliance strategies (daily or 14 day average flow; 3 ways to win)
- Goal for developing standards (historical level of protection; balancing based on water supply impacts)

1:00 - 2:00 Continuation of Spring outflow discussion

2:00 - 4:30 Delta Cross Channel gate operation and Sacramento River flow issues

- Period of Delta Cross Channel gate closures
- Flexibility in gate operation (real-time operation based on fish presence)
- Pulse Flows for Salmon (Spring and Fall)
- Pulse flows for striped bass to keep eggs afloat
- Salmon smolt survival indices as standards (USEPA proposal)

October 13

9:00 - 10:30 San Joaquin River flows for salmon

- Pulse flows for salmon (Spring and Fall)
- Old River barrier (should construction of this barrier be assumed)
- Salmon smolt survival indices as standards

10:30 - 12:00 Export limits

- Fixed export constraints
- Variable export restrictions (% inflow, QWEST, no exports below a designated outflow)
- Timing and magnitude (seasonal or year-round)

1:00 - 2:00 Continuation of export limits discussion

2:00 - 4:30 San Joaquin River salinity issues

- USEPA's proposed 0.44 EC standard for striped bass spawning
- Implementation options for salinity control
- Flow standards for consumptive use in the South Delta

October 14

9:00 - 10:30 Suisun Marsh issues

- USEPA's tidal marsh narrative standard
- Implementation of Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement (DFG and DWR will discuss studies undertaken to analyze the effect of SMPA implementation)
- SWRCB adoption of SMPA

10:30 - 12:00 ESA issues

- Adoption of standards adequate to avoid jeopardy (DFG, USFWS, and NMFS will discuss requirements)
- Factors necessary to ensure "shelf life"
- Methods available to amend standards as conditions change

1:00 - 2:00 Continuation of ESA issues discussion

2:00 - 4:30 Recommendations for action by other agencies ("category 3" issues)

- Actions to achieve standards
- Actions to improve water supply reliability
- Actions to improve habitat conditions