

APRIL 26 1994

**Statement on Behalf of the
Bay-Delta Modeling Forum**

Before the

State Water Resources Control Board

April 26, 1994 Workshop on Bay-Delta Standards

The Bay-Delta Modeling Forum was recently formed with the adoption of Bylaws on March 11, 1994. The Forum is the result of a joint effort by private, environmental and educational entities and State, Federal, and local agencies to develop a mechanism for the exchange and improvement of modeling information.

The Forum was established because of the consensus that there is a need to resolve technical disagreements in a non-adversarial setting, to allow an open exchange of technical information and to help ensure that technical work continues to take into account the needs of stakeholders and decision makers. While the Forum is still in its initial stages, it can provide a means for assembling experts on subjects of interest, examining technical issues, narrowing issues by finding areas of consensus and helping parties to present information in common formats that can be more easily reviewed.

As stated in the Forum's Bylaws, the purposes of the Forum are:

- 1) to increase the usefulness of models for analyzing water related problems in the San Francisco Bay, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Central Valley system,
- 2) to provide an open forum for the exchange, improvement and pooling of water-related models and modeling information,
- 3) to seek input from California water resource system stakeholders and decision makers in order to better meet their modeling needs,
- 4) to mediate technical disputes involving modeling and
- 5) to conduct impartial peer reviews of models in order to document the strengths and weaknesses, suggest improvements and identify appropriate applications.

The Forum has recently conducted two well-attended workshops on issues related to the proposed EPA standards. The first, held in Palo Alto in February, was attended by about 60 people and concerned salinity-outflow relationships and issues related to meeting the proposed standards. The second, held on April 14, was attended by about 40 people and focussed on the narrow issue of the development of sliding scales that could be used in the proposed standards.

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The workshops allowed a discussion of issues, brought out some new ideas that may be helpful and were very useful in narrowing some of the issues so that they might be more easily addressed. A third workshop is being planned in the near future on issues related to the biological aspects of the proposed standards. In the next several months, the Forum will be developing a detailed work plan, beginning work on peer reviews, establishing funding and selecting an Executive Director.

The Forum is open to all individuals and entities who have an interest in the Bay-Delta system. It is led by a Steering Committee that includes State, Federal and local agencies, as well as representatives from water agencies and private, environmental and educational groups. The general administration of the Forum will be located at the Aquatic Habitat Institute, while peer review and related activities will be housed at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

The Forum urges the widest participation in its efforts, and hopes that all become active participants in this effort to improve communications on the technical issues related to the Bay-Delta estuary.