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PRESS RELEASE

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CALIFORNIA, FEDERAL OFFICIALS SIGN FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON BAY-DELTA; INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 19

State and Federal officials have signed an agreement on a process designed to provide more reliable water supplies for California and to protect natural resources in the Bay-Delta ecosystem. Informational meetings are scheduled to briefly explain the Framework Agreement and to discuss the process for long-term planning.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

In Los Angeles

**10 a.m. at the Doubletree Hotel, Los Angeles Airport
5400 West Century Boulevard**

In Sacramento

**3:30 p.m. at the Sacramento Inn
1401 Arden Way**

The Framework Agreement creates a structure for State and Federal officials to meet regularly and coordinate regulatory and resource decisions. Highlights of the agreement include:

* The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will adopt final Federal water quality standards. The State, in cooperation with Federal agencies, will develop a water quality control plan that meets both Federal and State requirements. When U.S. EPA has approved the State's plan, the agency will initiate a process to withdraw the Federal standards.

* After the water quality standards are adopted, the State Water Resources Control Board will initiate water right proceedings to allocate responsibilities for meeting the standards.

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* The agencies will develop a long-term strategy for resolving fish and wildlife issues, water supply reliability, levee stability, and water quality problems in the Bay-Delta estuary.

* The public will have a central role in development of long-term strategies. A committee of citizen advisors, representing a wide spectrum of interests will be created to provide input.

* The agreement calls for a comprehensive ecosystem approach to solving issues in the Bay-Delta which will include endangered species as well as other important natural resource values.

The State and Federal agencies are now focusing, in a coordinated way, on the technical and procedural aspects of setting water quality standards, the process of improving coordination of water operations to meet endangered species needs, and the development of long-term solutions to Bay-Delta issues.

The informational meetings on September 19 will feature presentations and discussions on developing a long-term strategy as well as a short overview of aspects of the Framework Agreement. Part of the meeting will be devoted to gathering input on how best to make the process work.

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