



State Water Resources Control Board



Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.
Agency Secretary

Division of Water Rights
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P.O. Box 2000 ♦ Sacramento, California 95812-2000
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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Workshop to Receive Information Regarding the Long-Term Transfer of Conserved Water from Imperial Irrigation District to San Diego County Water Authority

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August 30, 2005 – 1:00 p.m.
at Joe Serna, Jr. (Cal EPA) Building
Sierra Hearing Room
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California

SUBJECT OF WORKSHOP

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will be holding a public workshop to discuss the socio-economic impacts of the long-term conserved water transfer from Imperial Irrigation District (IID) to San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA). In addition, the State Water Board will discuss the status of any progress SDCWA has made towards implementation of any desalination projects.

BACKGROUND

In Order WRO 2002-0013, the State Water Board conditionally approved IID and SDCWA's joint petition for approval of a long-term transfer of conserved water from IID to SDCWA, Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). One of the issues addressed in the order was whether the transfer would be in the public interest in light of the potential for the transfer to adversely affect the local economy of Imperial County if IID were to fallow land in order to conserve water to transfer or to mitigate the environmental impacts of the transfer. The State Water Board concluded that the transfer would be in the public interest, notwithstanding the potential socio-economic impacts associated with fallowing, but that the socio-economic impacts should be mitigated to the extent feasible. (Revised Order WRO 2002-0013, p. 74.)

Legislation enacted shortly before the State Water Board adopted Order WRO 2002-0013, Senate Bill 482 (Stats. 2002, ch. 617) also addressed the potential socio-economic impacts of the transfer. Senate Bill 482 required the Resources Agency and the Technology, Trade and Commerce Agency to prepare and submit to the Legislature by June 30, 2003, a report evaluating the nature and extent of the economic impacts of fallowing, measures taken by IID to minimize

economic impacts, and whether additional funds would be necessary to mitigate economic impacts. (Stats. 2002, ch. 617, § 9.) The report also was to make recommendations regarding the provision and administration of any necessary additional funds. (*Ibid.*)

Because Senate Bill 482 provided a mechanism for addressing the potential socio-economic impacts of the transfer, the State Water Board did not require implementation of measures designed to mitigate socio-economic impacts as a condition of its approval of IID and SDCWA's transfer petition. Instead, the State Water Board reserved continuing authority to consider whether changes to Order WRO 2002-0013 to minimize or mitigate for socio-economic impacts would be appropriate in light of the evaluation and recommendations of the report to be prepared by the Resources Agency and the Technology, Trade and Commerce Agency. (Revised Order WRO 2002-0013, pp. 74, 77, 91.)

After the State Water Board adopted Order WRO 2002-0013, the section of Senate Bill 482 that governed preparation of the report on economic impacts was amended to require the report to be prepared by the Department of Food and Agriculture by June 30, 2005. (Stats. 2003, ch. 611, § 2.) The legislation also was amended to make the requirement to prepare the report contingent on the appropriation of funding. (*Ibid.*) According to the Department of Food and Agriculture, the Department has not prepared the report because the necessary funds were not appropriated.

Another issue addressed in Order WRO 2002-0013 was whether SDCWA should explore desalination as an alternative to the transfer. At the time, the State Water Board disagreed that desalination was a viable alternative to the transfer, but the State Water Board noted that SDCWA was required to prepare an urban water management plan every five years identifying existing and planned sources of water. (Revised Order WRO 2002-0013, p. 56.) The State Water Board directed SDCWA to report to the State Water Board biannually beginning within one year of the effective date of Order WRO 2002-0013, on the status of progress towards implementation of any desalination projects. (*Ibid.*) Order WRO 2002-0013 became effective upon execution of the Quantification Settlement Agreement between IID, CVWD, and MWD on October 10, 2003. To date, however, SDCWA has not submitted a report on the status of any desalination projects.

PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP

In view of the fact that a report evaluating the economic impacts of the transfer has not been prepared as originally required by Senate Bill 482, the State Water Board will hold a workshop to hear an update from IID, SDCWA, and other interested parties on the socio-economic impacts of the transfer, the steps that have been or will be taken to minimize or mitigate socio-economic impacts, and whether any additional mitigation measures are warranted.

In addition, the State Water Board will hear an update from SDCWA on the status of any progress towards implementation of any desalination projects.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

This is an informal workshop. The State Water Board will not take formal action at the workshop. In addition, there will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants. The State Water Board and its staff may, however, ask clarifying questions. A court reporter will be present.

The State Water Board will accept written comments prior to and for a period of 30 days following the workshop. Comments should be addressed to Ms. Debbie Irvin, Clerk to the Board, at the following address:

Ms. Debbie Irvin, Clerk to the Board
State Water Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100
FAX No. (916) 341-5620
E-mail: dirvin@waterboards.ca.gov

Electronic copies of written comments may be submitted to Ms. Irvin at dirvin@waterboards.ca.gov. The subject line of any comments should be "IID Workshop." Workshop participants are encouraged to summarize their written comments in their oral presentations. Participants with similar comments are requested to make joint presentations. All submitted comments will be posted at the Division of Water Rights website: <http://www.waterrights.ca.gov/hearings/ARCHIVED%20PROJECTS/Archived%20IID%20Long-Term%20Transfer.htm>

PARKING, ACCESSIBILITY, AND SECURITY

Public parking is available in metered spaces on area streets, and in the public garages. A map of the building and surrounding parking facilities can be viewed at www.waterrights.ca.gov/hearings/DwntnPk.pdf. The Cal-EPA Headquarters Building second-floor hearing rooms are accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact Adrian Perez at (916) 341-5880 at least five working days prior to the hearing date. TTY users may contact the California Relay service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922. Due to enhanced security precautions at the Cal-EPA Headquarters Building, all visitors are required to register with security prior to attending any meeting. Visitors must go to the Visitor and Environmental Services Center, located just inside and to the left of the building's public entrance. Please allow up to 15 minutes to sign in and receive a visitor's badge. Depending on their destination and the building's security level, visitors may be asked to show valid picture identification.

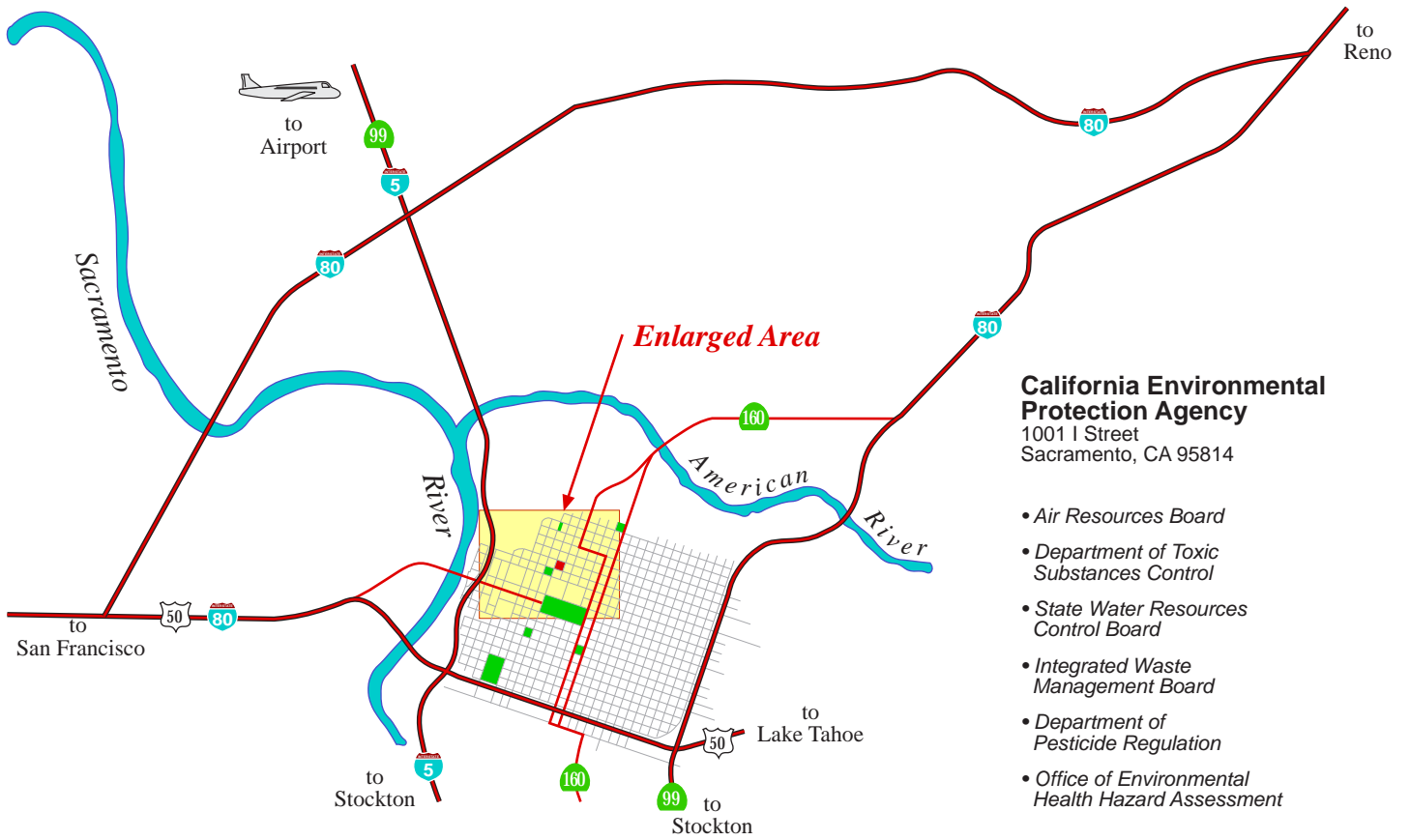
An audio broadcast of the Board workshop will be available beginning at 1:00 p.m., August 30, 2005, at www.calepa.ca.gov/Broadcast/.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

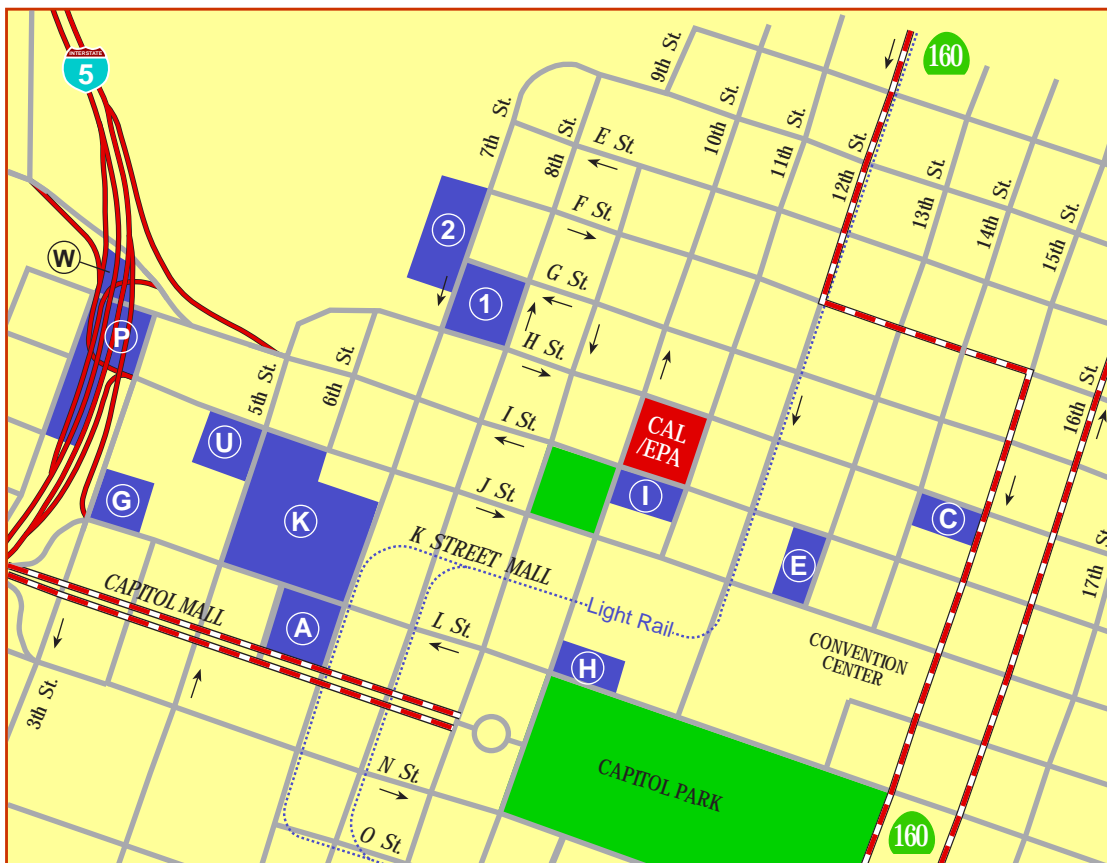
Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Ernest Mona, Water Resources Control Engineer, at (916) 341-5359. Questions may also be sent electronically to emona@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line of "IID Workshop."


Debbie Irvin
Clerk to the Board

July 11, 2005



Parking Lot Locations



- Lot 1 - (7th & G St.)
- Lot 2 - (7th & G St.)
- Lot A - (7th & Capitol)
- Lot C - (14th & H St.)
- Lot G - (3rd & L)
- Lot H - (10th & L)
- Lot I - (10th & I, 11th & D)
- Lot K - (6th & J/L, 7th & K)
- Lot P - (2nd & I)
- Lot U - (5th & J)
- Lot W - (2nd & I St.)