



**Winston H. Hickox**  
*Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection*

# State Water Resources Control Board

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## Division of Water Rights

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**Gray Davis**  
*Governor*

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

**December 5, 2001 – 10 am**  
**Joe Serna Jr./Cal EPA Building**  
**Central Valley Room - Second Floor**  
**1001 I Street, Sacramento**

### **PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING THE NARRATIVE SALMON PROTECTION OBJECTIVE IN THE 1995 BAY-DELTA PLAN**

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#### **SUBJECT OF THE WORKSHOP**

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is seeking comment and discussion on the following subjects: (1) what is the current status of existing programs designed to improve the natural production of chinook salmon within the Central Valley watershed, and (2) what additional actions, if any, should the SWRCB undertake to achieve a doubling of natural production of chinook salmon from the average production of the 1967 to 1991 period?

#### **BACKGROUND**

On May 22, 1995, the SWRCB adopted the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan) which establishes objectives for the protection of municipal, agricultural and fish and wildlife beneficial uses of water in the Bay-Delta Estuary. The Bay-Delta Plan includes a narrative objective for the protection of salmon. The objective states:

“Water quality conditions shall be maintained, together with other measures in the watershed, sufficient to achieve a doubling of natural production of chinook salmon from the average production of 1967-1991, consistent with the provisions of State and federal law.”

The SWRCB certified a Final Environmental Impact Report that addresses alternative methods for implementing many of the objectives in the Bay-Delta Plan by adding conditions to existing water rights. On December 29, 1999, the SWRCB adopted Decision 1641, which implements many of the objectives by conditioning existing water rights. D-1641 does not contain terms and conditions directed specifically to implementing the narrative salmon objective. The objective may be achieved incidentally by ensuring the terms and conditions imposed in D-1641 are met and by implementation of non-flow measures outside of the SWRCB's process. The SWRCB

found that a period during which there would be compliance with the numerical flow objectives in the Bay-Delta Plan, coupled with actions being undertaken by other agencies and adequate monitoring of fish populations, was necessary before it could determine whether additional implementation measures are needed.

In practice, the numerical flow objectives have been met since 1995. The purpose of this workshop is to ascertain the progress and effectiveness of existing programs that are working toward attainment of the narrative salmon objective, and to determine what additional actions within the authority of the SWRCB, if any, the SWRCB should consider implementing.

### **KEY ISSUES**

1. What is the status of actions listed in the 1995 Water Quality Control Plan (pages 33-39) to improve habitat conditions?
2. What actions have been or are being implemented within the Bay-Delta estuary by state, federal, and any other agency or group, to improve natural salmon production? What actions have been implemented or planned outside of the Bay-Delta estuary to achieve this objective?
3. What monitoring is currently being conducted to determine the effectiveness of existing programs in improving anadromous fish populations? How effective is the current monitoring? Based on current monitoring information, how much success have the state and federal efforts achieved in reaching the goal of doubling salmon populations achieved in the Central Valley, compared with the period of 1967 through 1991? (See federal Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992 (P.L. 102-575), section 3406(b)(1))
4. How should compliance with the narrative salmon objective be measured? What indicators of performance, or indicators of ecosystem health, have been developed to judge the status and trends of anadromous fish populations that migrate through the Central Valley?
5. What is the status of the National Marine Fisheries Service's recovery planning effort for Central Valley anadromous fish populations?
6. What other actions might be necessary to achieve the narrative salmon protection objective? Which of these actions are within the SWRCB's authority and which actions will require the cooperation of other agencies?
7. Is sufficient information available to the SWRCB to convert the narrative objective to a numeric objective? If not, what information is needed to develop a numeric objective for salmon protection?

### **PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

The workshop will be informal, but a court reporter will be present to prepare a transcript of the workshop. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants, but SWRCB members and staff may ask clarifying questions. The transcript for this workshop and any

supplemental materials submitted by parties will become part of the general correspondence for Application 5626. Participants are requested to provide 20 hard copies of their submittals either prior to or at the time of the workshop for the use of the SWRCB and its staff. Additional copies for participants of the workshop should be provided.

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Nick Wilcox, Chief of the Bay-Delta Unit (916) 341-5424 (FAX (916) 341-5400), or to Barbara Leidigh, Senior Staff Counsel, at (916) 341-5190.

### **PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY**

The [enclosed map](#) shows the location of the Joe Serna, Jr./California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal-EPA) Building in Sacramento. Public parking is available in metered spaces on area streets, and in the public garages shown on the enclosed map. The Cal-EPA Building, second-floor hearing room is 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 meeting date. TTY users may contact the California Relay service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

### **ORIGINAL SIGNED BY**

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Maureen Marché  
Clerk to the Board

Dated: OCTOBER 15, 2001