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*Secretary for
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State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Water Rights

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

NOTICE OF TECHNICAL STAFF WORKSHOP

Draft Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams

Wednesday, February 6, 2008
Session will commence at 1:00 pm
at
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, California 95403

SUBJECT OF WORKSHOP

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff is convening a staff workshop to discuss the draft Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams (draft policy) that was released by the State Water Board on December 28, 2007. At this workshop, State Water Board staff will explain the technical basis of the draft policy, and will describe how the draft policy and guidelines could be applied to water right projects if the draft policy is adopted.

BACKGROUND

Water Code section 1259.4, which was added by Assembly Bill 2121 (Stats. 2004, ch. 943, § 3), requires the State Water Board to adopt principles and guidelines for maintaining instream flows in northern California coastal streams as part of state policy for water quality control, for the purposes of water right administration. On December 28, 2007, the State Water Board released a Notice of Availability of a draft policy that implements Water Code section 1259.4. The draft policy would apply to applications to appropriate water, small domestic use and livestock stockpond registrations, and water right petitions. The geographic scope of the draft policy encompasses coastal streams from the Mattole River to San Francisco and coastal streams entering northern San Pablo Bay, and extends to five counties -- Marin, Sonoma, and portions of Napa, Mendocino, and Humboldt counties.

The draft policy establishes principles and guidelines for maintaining instream flows for the protection of fishery resources. It prescribes protective measures regarding the season of diversion, minimum bypass flow, and maximum cumulative diversion. The draft policy contains guidelines and methodology for evaluating whether a proposed water diversion, in combination with existing diversions in a watershed, may affect instream flows needed for the protection of fishery resources.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION IN THE WORKSHOP

State Water Board staff will provide information on how the draft policy may affect pending water rights and explain the implementation of the draft policy's methodologies. State Water Board staff will also respond to technical questions related to the draft policy.

California Environmental Protection Agency

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

A quorum of State Water Board members may be present at this technical staff workshop. The workshop will be informal. The State Water Board will consider adoption of the policy at a future Board meeting. Persons wishing to make formal comments on the draft policy should submit the comments in accordance with the Notice of Availability and Opportunity for Public Comment dated December 28, 2007 (see http://www.waterrights.ca.gov/docs/instreamflow/draftpolicy2007dec/1_noa.pdf)

INFORMATION REGARDING WORKSHOP

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Karen Niiya or Eric Oppenheimer at (916) 341-5342, or Erin Mahaney, Senior Staff Counsel, at (916) 341-5187.

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

The map below shows the location of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Take Highway 101 North from Santa Rosa about 5 miles to the Airport Blvd. offramp. Follow Airport Blvd. west about 1.4 miles to Skylane Blvd. Turn right on Skylane; the office is located about 0.4 miles on the right. This site is accessible to persons with disabilities.

January 25, 2008

Date

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board

