Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan Periodic Review Update

Special Committee on Bay-Delta
Item 4b, February 28, 2012

Water Quality Control Plan
Background

- Water Code requires Periodic Review
- Delta Reform Act mandates
  - Coequal goals
  - New flow criteria consideration
  - SWRCB and DFG flow recommendation
- Delta Stewardship Council objectives (5th Draft Plan)
  - Adopt SWRCB new flow objectives by Jun-2014
  - Draft policy would not find BDCP consistent w/Delta Plan until SWRCB flow objectives adopted & Council recommends that SWRCB stop issuing water right permits

Water Quality Control Plan
Review

- SWRCB will consider changes to water quality requirements
- Water quality, flow, and water rights intersection
- WQCP review
  - San Joaquin River flow & south Delta salinity
  - Delta outflow
  - New Delta tidal flows
  - New in-stream flows

Water Quality Control Plan
Issues

- Potential effect on Bay Delta Conservation Plan
  - Concurrent overlapping processes
    - SWRCB Periodic review, SWRCB San Joaquin River Flow & south Delta salinity proceedings, Federal BiOp reconsultation, Bay Delta Conservation Plan, DSC Delta Plan, Suisun Marsh Plan
- Reliability of science and evidence presented
- Potential protracted water rights proceedings

Water Quality Control Plan
MWD Staff Comments

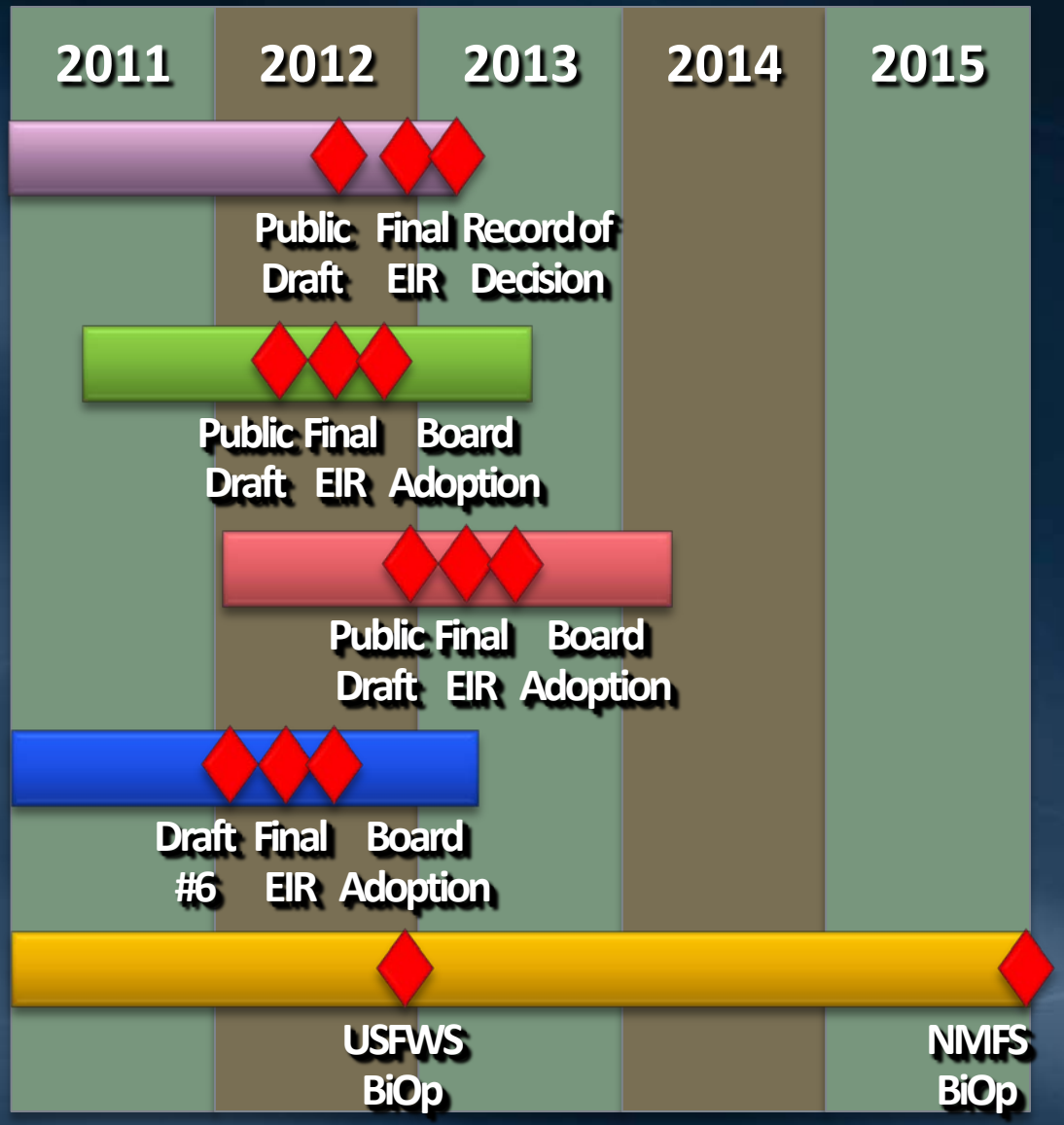
- Recognize SWRCB required to proceed with Review
- Coordinate with Bay Delta Conservation Plan
- Rely on best available science
- Supplement record with new scientific developments
- Balance competing beneficial uses

Water Quality Control Plan
Coordination Efforts

- Northern California Water Agency
- San Joaquin River Group
- Power agencies
- Federal Central Valley Project contractors
- State Water Contractors
- State Department of Water Resources
- US Bureau of Reclamation

Bay-Delta Processes

Timeline



Preliminary Subject to Revision

Water Quality Control Plan
Proposed Water User Next Steps

- Workshop/scoping meeting (May 2012)
- Hearings/workshops to update & supplement 2009 record
  - New science/reports & analyses critiques
  - Stakeholder impacts input
  - Ongoing efforts update (incl. BDCP/FESA processes)
- Second workshop
- San Joaquin River flow negotiations (San Joaquin River interests/SWRCB/FERC/state and federal fishery agencies)