

October 27, 1998

**To:** Board of Directors (Water Planning and Resources Committee--Information)

**From:** General Manager \_\_\_\_\_

**Submitted by:** Debra C. Man, Chief  
Planning and Resources \_\_\_\_\_

**Subject:** Status of State Water Resources Control Board Water Rights Hearings to  
Implement Water Quality Control Plan

## RECOMMENDATION

For information only.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) established flow, salinity and other environmental requirements in its May 1995 Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP) for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay/Delta). The WQCP requirements are not self-implementing and require further State Board action under its water rights administration authority. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) and The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) have voluntarily agreed to operate the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) to ensure that the WQCP objectives are met through the end of 1998. The State Board commenced an eight-phase hearing process on July 1, 1998, and to date, has nearly completed the first five phases.

In the final phase (Phase 8), the State Board will weigh evidence concerning the allocation of responsibility for meeting the WQCP objectives among all significant water right holders within the Bay/Delta watershed. This final phase, expected to begin in early 1999 will be contentious as the State Board considers alternatives that could broaden Bay/Delta protection responsibilities beyond the SWP and CVP. Metropolitan, in conjunction with the State Water Contractors, is participating in all hearing phases and preparing evidence for Phase 8.

## DETAILED REPORT

### **Background**

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) established flow, salinity and other environmental requirements in its May 1995 Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP) for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay/Delta). The WQCP requirements are not self-implementing and require further State Board action under its water rights