



Status of State Water Resources Control Board Proceedings to Update the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan

Special Committee on Bay-Delta
Item 3b
March 26, 2013

State Water Resource Control Board Background

- Authority
 - Setting water quality objectives
 - Administering water rights
 - Water Quality Control Plan last updated 2006
- Effects on Metropolitan
 - Delivery capability and water quality
 - State Water Project water rights

Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Process

- Phase 1—San Joaquin River flows and South Delta salinity
- Phase 2—All other elements of the Water Quality Control Plan

Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Phase 1 Overview (2009-2013)

- Release of Notice of Preparation
- SWRCB release of technical appendices
- Public workshop—Technical
- Outside scientific peer review
- Release of substitute environmental documents
- Public workshop—Environmental documents

Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Phase 1 Alternatives

- Lower San Joaquin River Flows
 - No Project Alternative
 - 20% Unimpaired flow requirement February-June
 - 40% Unimpaired flow requirement February-June
 - 60% Unimpaired flow requirement February-June
- South Delta Water Quality
 - No Project Alternative – 0.7 and 1.0 salinity
 - 1.0 salinity year round
 - 1.4 salinity year round

Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan SWRCB Preferred Alternative

- Lower San Joaquin River Flows
 - 35% Unimpaired flow February through June
 - Annual Adaptive Management Process
- South Delta Water Quality
 - 1.0 salinity in Interior South Delta Water Quality Stations
 - DWR & USBR install temporary barriers annually
 - DWR & USBR conduct monitoring, reporting and modeling

Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan CVP/SWP Comments

- SWP/CVP project operations cause:
 - No adverse effect on salinity
 - Some relatively small effect on South Delta water levels
- SWP/CVP should not be required to install temporary barriers or fund studies

Next Steps

- Phase I Process
 - Comments on supplemental EIR
 - SWRCB staff proposal for board consideration
- Phase II Process
 - April 9 board meeting to discuss procedure for moving forward