



**Overview of  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Process**

**Special Committee on Bay-Delta  
Item 3b, September 29, 2015**

# Overview

- Water Quality Control Plan review process
- Update on progress
- Anticipated next steps



**Water Quality  
Control Plan  
for the  
San Francisco  
Bay/Sacramento-San  
Joaquin Delta Estuary**

December 13, 2006



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Division of Water Rights  
December 2006



# Water Quality Control Plan

## Review Process

- Water code requires periodic review
- Charge to balance competing beneficial uses
- Intersection of water quality, flow, and water rights
- Phased update
  - Phase I: San Joaquin River (Ongoing)
  - Phase II: Sacramento River and Delta (Ongoing)
  - Phase III: Water rights/implementation (Future)
  - Phase IV: Priority upstream tributaries (Ongoing)

# Delta Reform Act Mandates (2009)



- Coequal goals
- Develop flow recommendations
- Adopt appropriate flow criteria prior to approval of new point of diversion
- Establish Delta Stewardship Council

# Flow Recommendation (2010)

- Suggested flows for fishery protection
- Does not balance competing beneficial uses
- No regulatory effect

State Water Resources Control Board  
California Environmental Protection Agency

Development of Flow Criteria for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta  
Ecosystem

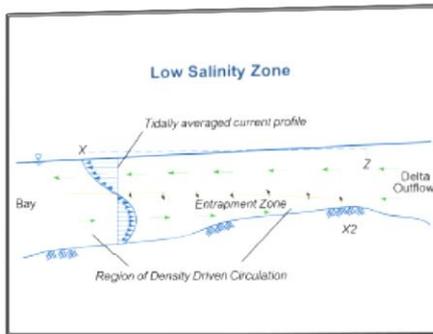
Prepared Pursuant to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009



August 3, 2010

# Delta Science Program

## Expert Panel Reports



### Workshop on Delta Outflows and Related Stressors Panel Summary Report

#### Panel:

Denise Reed - Water Institute of the Gulf (Panel Chair)  
James (Tim) Hollibaugh - University of Georgia  
Josh Korman - University of British Columbia/Ecometric Consulting  
Ernst Peebles - University of South Florida  
Kenneth Rose - Louisiana State University  
Pete Smith - United States Geological Survey, retired  
Paul Montagna - Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi

May 5, 2014



### Workshop on the Interior Delta Flows And Related Stressors Panel Summary Report

#### Panel:

Stephen Monismith - Stanford University (Panel Chair)  
Mary Fabrizio - Virginia Institute of Marine Science  
Michael Healey - Professor Emeritus, University of British Columbia  
John Nestler - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (retired)  
Kenneth Rose - Louisiana State University  
John Van Sickle - U.S. EPA (retired)

July 2014



- Concurrent overlapping processes
  - Water Quality Control Plan periodic review
  - Federal Biological Opinion consultation
  - California Water Fix
  - Delta Stewardship Council Delta Plan
- Reliability of science and evidence presented
- Potential protracted water rights proceedings



# MWD Staff Comments

- Recognize requirement to proceed with WQCP periodic review
- Coordinate with California Water Fix
- Rely on best available science
- Supplement record with new scientific developments
- Balance competing beneficial uses



# Coordination

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



# Anticipated Next Steps

- SWRCB technical reports and CEQA documents are expected
- MWD staff will present relevant information to inform SWRCB decision making
- MWD will coordinate with state and federal water contractors and other stakeholders

# The Delta

**Suisun Bay**

**Sacramento**

**Stockton**

**State & Federal  
Pumping Plants**

*California's Bay-Delta*

