



# Adopt CEQA Determination and Express Support for the ACWA Policy Statement on Bay-Delta Flow Requirements

Water Planning and Stewardship Committee

Item 8-7

June 12, 2017

# Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan

## Background

- Meets requirements of the federal Clean Water Act and California Water Code
  - Identifies beneficial uses of water
  - Adopts water quality objectives for the reasonable protection of beneficial uses
  - Establishes a program of implementation for achieving water quality objectives
- Ultimately the WQCP can result in requirements that impact Delta operations

# Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan

## Update Process

- Triennial review required under federal Clean Water Act
- State Board review and update of the 2006 WCQP began in 2009
  - Phase 1 - San Joaquin River Flows & Southern Delta Water Quality Objectives
  - Phase 2 - Delta Outflows, Sacramento River & Delta Tributary Inflows, Cold Water Habitat & Interior Delta Flows

# Key Milestones and Participation

## Phase 1

- Metropolitan staff has been actively engaged in all aspects of the WQCP update process
- Extensive comments provided through coordination with the State Water Contractors



# Summary of Phase 1 Comments

- Comments on Phase 1 focused on a number of technical and legal flaws
  - South Delta salinity objectives were not sufficiently analyzed
  - San Joaquin “unimpaired flow” objectives are not supported by science
  - The program of implementation addresses matters outside of State Board water quality planning authority

# ACWA Policy Statement

- In March 2017, ACWA issued a Policy Statement on Bay-Delta Flow Requirements
- ACWA's policy statement outlines a "Better Path to the Future" through:
  - Collaboration and voluntary agreements
  - The use of best available science
  - A shift toward functional flows
  - Consideration of economic factors
  - Consistency with state policy

# ACWA Policy Statement

- ACWA's statement is consistent with Metropolitan policies and Phase 1 comments
- ACWA requested its member agencies adopt resolutions and talking points
- Broad support demonstrates state-wide commonality of views among public water agencies

# Board Options

- Option 1:

Adopt the CEQA determination and express support for the ACWA Policy Statement on Bay-Delta Flow Requirements

- Option 2:

Take no action



# Staff Recommendation

- Option 1

