



Update on
State Water Resources Control Board's
Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Process

Special Committee on Bay-Delta
Item 3a
October 24, 2017

Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP)

Background

- Implements the federal Clean Water Act (“CWA”) and California Water Code
 - Adopts water quality objectives for the reasonable protection of beneficial uses
 - Establishes a program of implementation for achieving water quality objectives

Decisions Implementing WQCP

- Water Right Decision 1641
 - Salinity standards
 - Minimum outflow
 - Delta cross channel gate closure
 - CVP-SWP export limits

Delta Water Quality Station Locations

WQCP includes multiple water quality requirements with compliance throughout the Delta



Water Quality Control Plan

Review Process

- Water code requires periodic review
- Balance competing beneficial uses
- Phased update
 - Phase I: San Joaquin River Flows and Southern Delta Water Quality
 - Phase II: Sacramento River and Delta
 - Phase III: Water rights/implementation
 - Phase IV: Priority upstream tributaries

Key Milestones and Participation

- Metropolitan provided written and oral technical testimony at each step of WQCP process:
 - 2010 Flow Criteria workshops and report
 - 2011 Phase 1 Scientific Basis Report
 - 2012 Water Board workshops
 - 2013 Phase I, Draft CEQA document
 - 2016 Draft Phase II Scientific Basis Report
 - 2017 Phase I, Draft CEQA document

Final Phase II Technical Basis Report

Metropolitan will submit written comments:

- Clearly define unimpaired flow
- Disclose scientific uncertainty
- Integrate more current and highly relevant literature
- Recommendations on statistical approaches/practices

Request for Comment Implementation

- Discussion of implementation is premature
- Recommend comprehensive solution
- Request support for agreement mechanisms to support comprehensive solution

Next Steps

- Public Input
 - Water Board request for input related to development of the program Implementation.
- Collaborating with partners to develop durable solution based on sound science.
- SWRCB process next steps.

