



Monday, March 3, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Notice of Water Resources Committee Regular Meeting and Joint Water Resources Committee Regular Meeting-Special Board Workshop

**SLDMWA Boardroom
842 6th Street, Los Banos**

Public Participation Information

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84063720090?pwd=FXFr3ZTFbeuSxArGjvatNTyDeHBaC1.1>

Meeting ID: 840 6372 0090

Passcode: 011732

One tap mobile

+16694449171,,84063720090#,,,,*011732# US

+16699006833,,84063720090#,,,,*011732# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84063720090?pwd=FXFr3ZTFbeuSxArGjvatNTyDeHBaC1.1>

NOTE: Any member of the public may address the Water Resources Committee/Board concerning any item on the agenda before or during consideration of that item.

Because the notice provides for a regular meeting of the Water Resources Committee ("WRC") and a joint regular WRC Meeting/Special Board workshop, Board Directors/Alternates may discuss items listed on the agenda; however, only WRC Members/Alternates may correct or add to the agenda or vote on action items.

NOTE FURTHER: Meeting materials have been made available to the public on the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority's website, <https://www.sldmwa.org>, and at the Los Banos Administrative Office, 842 6th Street, Los Banos, CA 93635.

Agenda

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Water Resources Committee to Consider Additions and Corrections to the Agenda for the Water Resources Committee Meeting only, as Authorized by Government Code Section 54950 *et seq.*
3. Opportunity for Public Comment – Any member of the public may address the Water Resources Committee/Board concerning any matter not on the agenda, but within the Committee or Board's jurisdiction. Public comment is limited to no more than three minutes per person. For good cause, the Chair of the Water Resources Committee may waive this limitation.

ACTION ITEMS

4. **Approval of February 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

5. **Recommendation to Board of Directors to Adopt Staff Recommendation for Positions on Legislation**, Petersen
 - A. H.R. 132 (Boebert), Western Water Accelerated Revenue Repayment Act
 - B. AB 269 (Bennett) Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program (Ratification)
 - C. SB 72 (Caballero) The California Water Plan: Long-Term Supply Targets

REPORT ITEMS

6. Executive Director's Report, Barajas
(May include reports on activities within the Water Resources Committee's jurisdiction related to 1) CVP/SWP water operations; 2) California storage projects; 3) regulation of the CVP/SWP; 4) existing or possible new State and Federal policies; 5) Water Authority activities)
7. Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities, Petersen
(May include reports on federal, state, and local agency regulatory, legislative, and administrative water policy/resources activities)
8. Update on Water Operations and Forecasts, Arroyave
9. Committee Member Reports
10. Closed Session

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9 – 2 potential cases

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) or (3) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9 – 2 potential cases

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

Existing Litigation Pursuant to paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9

- A. Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, et al. v. Stock, et al., U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 2:11-cv-02980; 9th Cir. Case No. 23-15599 (GBP Citizen Suit)
- B. City of Fresno, et al. v. United States, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Cir., Case No. 22-1994; U.S. Court of Federal Claims, Case No. 1:16-cv-01276 (2014 Friant Div. Operations)
- C. Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, et al. v. Raimondo, et al., U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 1:20-cv-00431 (ROC on LTO BiOps)
- D. California Natural Resources Agency, et al. v. Raimondo, et al., U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 1:20-cv-00426 (ROC on LTO BiOps)
- E. AquAlliance et al. v. San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, Merced Co. Superior Court, Case No. 21CV-03487 (Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR Addendum)
- F. California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, et al. v. State Water Resources Control Board, et al., Sac. Co. Superior Court, Case No. 34-2021-80003761 (2021 TUCP Order)
- G. California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, et al. v. State Water Resources Control Board, et al., Sac. Co. Superior Court, Case No. 34-2021-80003763 (2021 Temp. Mgmt. Plan)
- H. Walsh v. Martin, et al., E.D. Cal., Case No. 1:23-CV-01774 (employment action)
- I. State Water Resources Control Board, Administrative Hearings Office, Petitions for Change of DWR Water Right Permits, Delta Conveyance Project (DWR Change Petition)
- J. Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, et al. v. California Department of Water Resources, et al., Sacramento Co. Superior Court, Case No. 24WM000183 (SWP 2024 EIR Challenge)

11. Return to Open Session
12. Report from Closed Session, if any, Required by Government Code Section 54957.1
13. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)
14. ADJOURNMENT

Persons with a disability may request disability-related modification or accommodation by contacting Cheri Worthy or Sandi Ginda at the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Office, 842 6th Street, P.O. Box 2157, Los Banos, California, via telephone at (209) 826-9696, or via email at cheri.worthy@sldmwa.org. Requests should be made as far in advance as possible before the meeting date, preferably 3 days in advance of regular meetings or 1 day in advance of special meetings/workshops.

This agenda has been prepared as required by the applicable laws of the State of California, including but not limited to, Government Code Section 54950 et seq. and has not been prepared with a view to informing an investment decision in any of the Authority's bonds, notes or other obligations. Any projections, plans or other forward-looking statements included in the information in this agenda are subject to a variety of uncertainties that could cause any actual plans or results to differ materially from any such statement. The information herein is not intended to be used by investors or potential investors in considering the purchase or sale of the Authority's bonds, notes or other obligations and investors and potential investors should rely only on information filed by the Authority on the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board's Electronic Municipal Market Access System for municipal securities disclosures, maintained on the World Wide Web at <https://emma.msrb.org/>.

DRAFT
SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING AND JOINT
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING - SPECIAL
BOARD WORKSHOP MINUTES
FEBRUARY 3, 2025

The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Water Resources Committee Regular Meeting and Joint Water Resources Committee Regular Meeting and Special Board Workshop convened at approximately 10:00 a.m. at 842 6th Street in Los Banos, California, with Acting Chair Cannon Michael presiding.

Water Resources Committee Members Present

Ex-Officio

Cannon Michael

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Alternate

Division 2

Bill Diedrich, Member - Lon Martin, Alternate

Division 3

Absent

Division 4

Vince Gin, Member (via ZOOM) - Dana Jacobson, Alternate

Division 5

Manny Amorelli, Alternate

Board of Directors Present

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Director

Division 2

Justin Diener, Director
Bill Diedrich, Director - Lon Martin, Alternate

Division 3

Jarrett Martin, Director
Cannon Michael, Chair/Director

Division 4

Dana Jacobson, Director
Brett Miller, Alternate

Division 5

Manny Amorelli, Director

Authority Representatives Present

Federico Barajas, Executive Director
Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer
Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel
Rebecca Harms, Deputy General Counsel
Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director
Ray Tarka, Director of Finance
Stewart Davis, IT Officer

Others Present

Tom Boardman, Westlands Water District (via ZOOM)
Beckie Zisser, Valley Water (via ZOOM)
Cindy Kao, Valley Water (via ZOOM)

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Committee Acting Chair Cannon Michael called the meeting to order and roll was called.

2. The Water Resources Committee to Consider Additions or Corrections to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq. - No additions or corrections.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment - No public comment.

4. Water Resources Committee to Consider Approval of the January 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes - Acting Chair Cannon Michael deemed the January 6, 2025 meeting minutes approved as submitted.

5. Recommendation to the Board of Directors to Adopt Staff Recommendation on Positions on Legislation

- a. H.R. 337 (Costa), Groundwater Recharge Technical Assistance Act
- b. H.R. 338 (Costa), Every Drop Counts Act
- c. A.B. 259 (Rubio): Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.
- d. Draft Legislation to fund State Route 152 improvements associated with the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reviewed the staff recommendations for positions on legislation and answered questions from Committee members.

On a motion of Member Bill Diedrich, seconded by Member Vince Gin, the Committee adopted the staff recommendations for support positions on H.R. 337 (Costa), H.R. 338 (Costa), A.B. 259 (Rubio), and to sponsor and support legislation to fund State Route 152 improvements associated with the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise Project and Reservoir Expansion Project. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Michael, Hansen, Diedrich, Gin, Amorelli
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None

6. Executive Director’s Report.

- a. Planning Committee – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that staff is working on action items from the January Delta-Mendota Canal Workshop.
- b. South of Delta Drought Plan – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that discussions are ongoing regarding transition to 2025 South of Delta Drought Plan pilot project, including end of year volumes at San Luis Reservoir and rescheduling calculations. Barajas answered questions throughout his report.
- c. Initial Allocation – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the Reclamation is expected to make initial allocation announcement later this month. Barajas reported that staff is asking Reclamation to provide more transparency regarding allocation assumptions and calculations.

7. Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided an extensive update regarding the Reinitiation of Consultation on Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project (CVP), Adaptive Management, Water Quality Control Plan update, Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley, and San Joaquin Valley Collaborative Action Program. Petersen answered Committee questions throughout the presentation.

8. Update on Water Operations and Forecasts.

Westlands Water District’s Tom Boardman reported on Shasta storage conditions, noting recent precipitation and status of snowpack in the watershed. Refill projections were also explained, which included potential benefits to elevated summer exports if Shasta refills to at least 3.8 MAF. Folsom storage was described as below normal but has the potential to improve to above normal conditions because the watershed is much larger than the reservoir size.

Recent and near-term export rates were reported, which included a brief explanation of factors that reduced exports. Boardman also noted that expected high San Joaquin River flows have the potential to offset possible impacts to export pumping related to fish-protective actions that might require reductions in the allowable reverse flow in Old and Middle rivers.

Boardman reported on current storage in the CVP share of the San Luis reservoir and briefly explained refill projections under dry and median hydrologic conditions.

9. **Committee Member Reports.**

Alternate Member Lon Martin noted that San Luis Water District had received a conservation award. Committee Member Bill Diedrich expressed appreciation for San Luis Water District staff.

10. **Closed Session**

Acting Chair Cannon Michael adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 11:13 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:42 a.m., General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported that no reportable actions were taken in closed session.

11. **Agenda Item 13: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2 – No report.**

12. **Agenda Item 14: Adjournment -** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:43 a.m.



MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Water Resources Committee Members and Alternates

FROM: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

DATE: March 3, 2025

RE: Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities

Background

This memorandum is provided to briefly summarize the current status of various agency processes regarding water policy activities, including but not limited to the (1) Reinitiation of Consultation on Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, including environmental compliance; (2) State Water Resources Control Board action; (3) Central Valley Regional Water Board Action, (4) San Joaquin River Restoration Program; (5) Delta conveyance; (6) Reclamation action; (7) Delta Stewardship Council action; (8) San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint, and (9) San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Plan.

Policy Items

Implementation of 2024 Record of Decision on Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project

On December 20, Reclamation executed the Record of Decision and both the Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries issued their Final Biological Opinions, beginning operations under the new operations regime.

Reclamation has now shifted to implementation of the new biological opinions and associated operations, and is beginning to establish working groups associated with implementation of the Adaptive Management provisions in the 2024 ROD, including the establishment of a policy steering committee and the beginning of analysis around the X2 action associated with the Summer-Fall Habitat Action for this water year.

On January 2024, President Trump issued an Executive Order detailing analysis of potential changes to the operations in the 2024 ROD for consideration by the Administration. There is currently work underway to develop an implementation plan for the Executive Order and future action on project operations.

Adaptive Management Program

As part of implementation of the 2024 Record of Decision, state and federal agencies have initiated a structured decision-making process to assess alternatives to implement the Summer-Fall Habitat Action, including an analysis of summer and fall X2, for elevation to the agency directors to make a decision regarding summer-fall operations by early April.

The group has met to outline fundamental and means objectives and developed 14 alternatives to model. Modeling will be completed over the next few weeks, after which the respective steering committee members will weight the modeling results of the alternatives based on individual values. Importantly, there will be a narrative that accompanies the analysis provided to the Director's that informs potential modifications to real time operations and associated sensitivity analysis in the event of elevated temperatures.

Endangered Species Act Consultation Milestones

- TBD: Trinity Cooperating Agency Draft EIS/Draft Biological Assessment
- TBD: Trinity Public Draft EIS
- TBD: Trinity Biological Opinion, Final NEPA and ROD

Note: There are also Endangered Species Act consultations on the Trinity River and Klamath River that may have overlap/interactions with the consultation for the CVP/SWP.

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Activity

Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update

Background

The State Water Board is currently considering updates to its 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary ("Bay Delta Plan") in two phases (Plan amendments). The first Plan amendment is focused on San Joaquin River flows and southern Delta salinity ("Phase I" or "San Joaquin River Flows and Southern Delta Salinity Plan Amendment"). The second Plan amendment is focused on the Sacramento River and its tributaries, Delta eastside tributaries (including the Calaveras, Cosumnes, and Mokelumne rivers), Delta outflows, and interior Delta flows ("Phase II" or "Sacramento/Delta Plan Amendment").

During the December 12, 2018 Water Board Meeting, the Department of Water Resources ("DWR") and Department of Fish and Wildlife presented proposed "Voluntary Settlement Agreements" ("VSAs") on behalf of Reclamation, DWR, and the public water agencies they serve to resolve conflicts over proposed amendments to the Bay-Delta Plan update.¹ The State Water Board did not adopt the proposed VSAs in lieu of the proposed Phase 1 amendments, but as explained below, directed staff to consider the proposals as part of a future Delta-wide proposal.

¹ Available at <https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Blogs/Voluntary-Settlement-Agreement-Meeting-Materials-Dec-12-2018-DWR-CDFW-CNRA.pdf>.

Phase 1 Status – San Joaquin River and its Tributaries

The State Water Board adopted a resolution² to adopt amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary and adopt the Final Substitute Environmental Document during its December 12, 2018 public meeting.

Most recently, on July 18, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP)³ and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Scoping Meeting for the Proposed Regulation to Implement Lower San Joaquin River Flows (LSJR) and Southern Delta Salinity Objectives in the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Bay-Delta Plan).

The purpose of the NOP is: (1) to advise responsible and trustee agencies, Tribes, and interested organizations and persons, that the State Water Board or Board will be the lead agency and will prepare a draft EIR for a proposed regulation implementing the LSJR flow and southern Delta salinity components of the 2018 Bay-Delta Plan, and (2) to seek input on significant environmental issues, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that should be addressed in the EIR. For responsible and trustee agencies, the State Water Board requests the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information related to your agency's area of statutory responsibility that must be included in the draft EIR.

In response to the release of the NOP, the Water Authority and member agencies provided scoping comments⁴.

Phase 2 Status – Sacramento River and its Tributaries and Bay-Delta

In the State Water Board's resolution adopting the Phase 1 amendments, the Water Board directed staff to assist the Natural Resources Agency in completing a Delta watershed-wide agreement, including potential flow and non-flow measures for the Tuolumne River, and associated analyses no later than March 1, 2019. Staff were directed to incorporate the Delta watershed-wide agreement as an alternative for a future, comprehensive Bay-Delta Plan update that addresses the reasonable protection of beneficial uses across the Delta watershed, with the goal that comprehensive amendments may be presented to the State Water Board for consideration as early as possible after December 1, 2019.

On March 1, 2019, the California Department of Water Resources and the Department of Fish and Wildlife submitted documents⁵ to the State Water Board that reflect progress since December to flesh-out the previously submitted framework to improve conditions for fish through targeted river flows and a suite

²Available at

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2018/rs2018_0059.pdf.

³ Available at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/notices/20220715-implementation-nop-and-scoping-dwr-baydelta.pdf

⁴ Request from Authority staff

⁵ Available at http://resources.ca.gov/docs/voluntary-agreements/2019/Complete_March_1_VA_Submission_to_SWRCB.pdf

of habitat-enhancing projects including floodplain inundation and physical improvement of spawning and rearing areas.

Since the March 1 submittal, work has taken place to develop the package into a form that is able to be analyzed by State Water Board staff for legal and technical adequacy. On June 30, 2019, a status update with additional details was submitted to the Board for review. Additionally, on February 4, 2020, the State team released a framework for the Voluntary Agreements to reach “adequacy”, as defined by the State team.

Further work and analysis is needed to determine whether the agreements can meet environmental objectives required by law and identified in the State Water Board’s update to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

Phase 2 Draft Staff Report

On September 28, the State Water Resources Control Board released a draft Staff Report in support of possible updates to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan) that are focused on the Sacramento River watershed, Delta, and Delta eastside tributaries (Sacramento/Delta).

The draft Staff Report includes scientific information and environmental and economic evaluations to support possible Sacramento/Delta updates to the Bay-Delta Plan. The report assesses a range of alternatives for updating the Sacramento/Delta portions of the Bay-Delta Plan, including: an alternative based on a 2018 Framework document identifying a 55% of unimpaired flow level (within an adaptive range from 45-65%) from Sacramento/Delta tributaries and associated Delta outflows; and a proposed voluntary agreements alternative that includes voluntary water contributions and physical habitat restoration on major tributaries to the Delta and in the Delta. In addition, based on input from California Native American tribes, the draft Staff Report identifies the proposed addition of tribal and subsistence fishing beneficial uses to the Bay-Delta Plan.

The draft Staff Report is available for review on the [Board’s website](#). The Authority coordinated and submitted comments with member agencies⁶.

Program of Implementation

On Oct. 25, the State Water Resources Control Board released a [draft of potential updates](#) for the Sacramento/Delta portions of the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta Watershed (Bay-Delta Plan). The draft changes include options for incorporating a regulatory pathway, which features tributary inflow and cold water habitat provisions and inflow-based Delta outflows, or a pathway based on the [Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program](#), formerly referred to as the Voluntary Agreements. Additionally, the draft updates include options for two modular alternatives (Alternatives 5a and 6a) that were described in the State Water Board’s 2023 [draft staff report](#).

⁶ Request from Authority staff.

The State Water Board has not yet selected a pathway for updating the Sacramento/Delta portions of the Bay-Delta Plan. State Water Board staff will develop a revised draft of proposed updates based on comments on this draft.

The State Water Board held multiday workshops, with dates scheduled in November, December, and January, to discuss the draft changes. Written comments on the draft Program of Implementation were submitted by the Water Authority and some of its members⁷. Additionally, written comments on Alternatives 5a and 6a were submitted January 31⁸.

Schedule

LSJR Flow/SD Salinity Implementation Next Steps Assuming Regulation Path (Phase 1)

- Winter 2024/Spring 2025
 - Final draft Staff Report for Tuolumne River VA
 - Board workshop and consideration of Tuolumne River VA
 - Final draft EIR and regulation implementing Lower SJR flows and South Delta Salinity
 - Board consideration of regulation implementing Lower SJR flows and South Delta Salinity

Sac/Delta Update: Key Milestones

- Spring 2025: Response to comments and development of proposed final changes to the Bay-Delta Plan
- Summer 2025: Board consideration of adoption

Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program

On March 29, 2022, members of the Newsom Administration joined federal and local water leaders in announcing the signing of a memorandum of understanding⁹ that advances integrated efforts to improve ecosystem and fisheries health within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta. State and federal agencies also announced an agreement¹⁰ specifically with the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors on an approach for 2022 water operations on the Sacramento River.

The HRL parties continue to meet to advance various components of the HRL Program for State Board consideration as it considers the updates to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

⁷ Request from Authority staff.

⁸ Request from Authority staff.

⁹ Available at <https://resources.ca.gov/-/media/CNRA-Website/Files/NewsRoom/Voluntary-Agreement-Package-March-29-2022.pdf>

¹⁰ Available at <https://calepa.ca.gov/2022/03/29/informational-statement-state-federal-agencies-and-sacramento-river-settlement-contractors-agree-on-approach-for-2022-water-operations-on-the-sacramento-river/>

Delta Conveyance Project

Petition for Change of Point of Diversion and Rediversion for the Delta Conveyance Project

On February 22, 2024, the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) received a Petition for Change from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to add two new points of diversion (POD) and rediversion (PORD) to the water right permits associated with the State Water Project. Specifically, the petition seeks to change Water Right Permits 16478, 16479, 16481, and 16482 (Applications 5630, 14443, 14445A, and 17512, respectively). The proposed new PODs/PORDs would consist of screened intakes 2.3 miles apart located on the lower Sacramento River between Freeport and Sutter Slough. The proposed new intakes are part of the Delta Conveyance Project, which would allow DWR to divert water from the northern Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Delta) and convey the water through a tunnel to existing water distribution facilities in the southern Delta.

This petition is available on the DWR website at: https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Delta-Conveyance/Public-Information/Revised_DCP_CPOD_Petition_Package_2024.pdf

Protests against the change petition must have been filed by May 13, 2024, with a copy provided to the petitioner. SLDMWA entered into a Settlement Agreement¹¹ with DWR on the project.

The State Water Board Administrative Hearings Office will hold a hearing regarding the Delta Conveyance Project (also known as the Delta Tunnel) beginning on **February 18, 2025 at 9 a.m.** The hearing will address the water right change petitions filed by the Department of Water Resources' State Water Project to add two new points of diversion and rediversion on the Lower Sacramento River to build the Delta Conveyance Project.

The State Water Board will use the evidence presented during the hearing to determine whether to approve these petitions, and if so, what specific terms and conditions (if any) should be included in the amended State Water Project permits. Parties to the proceeding may submit exhibits and testimony relevant to a list of issues and sub-issues to be considered, including:

Would approval of the petitions impact tribal lands, tribal interests, or tribal cultural resources? If approved, what terms and conditions, if any, within the Board's authorities should the Board include in the amended permits to protect these interests?

More Information

- [Second Amended Notice of Hearing and Procedural Ruling](#) (includes hearing details and background, procedures, how to request language or other services, list of issues to be considered, list of Protestants, interested persons). Note that the dates listed in the notice are subject to change.
- Hearing website: bit.ly/aho-dcp
- Subscribe to emails related to this proceeding by visiting bit.ly/swb-subscribe and selecting "Delta Conveyance Project Public Hearing" in the Administrative Hearings Office subscription topic group.

¹¹ Request from Authority staff.

Calendar

Schedule/Deadlines (subject to change)	Date and Time
Deadline for submission of hearing management statement and joint proposal for site visit.	February 11, 2025
Hearing begins with policy statements from 9 a.m. to approximately 12 p.m., and consideration of remaining procedural issues starting at approximately 1 p.m.	February 18, 2025
Hearing continues with remaining policy statements and Petitioner's case-in-chief.	March 24, 2025
Hearing continues with Petitioner's case-in-chief.	March 25, and April 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 14, 17, 22, 23, and 24, 2025
Deadline for Protestants to submit case-in-chief exhibits, exhibit identification indices, and proposed permit terms or statement of no appropriate conditions for approval. Deadline for Petitioner to submit any additional case-in-chief exhibits based on any revision to hearing issues or newly available information.	Approximately June 2025

Incidental Take Permit

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) under Section 2081 of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) for the Delta Conveyance Project. Completion of this permit is an important milestone in the planning process, advancing this critical project closer to implementation.

Under CESA, DWR is required to obtain an ITP to minimize, avoid, and fully mitigate impacts to threatened or endangered species as a result of the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Delta Conveyance Project.

ITP Background

Incidental Take Permits are most commonly issued for construction, utility, transportation, and other infrastructure-related projects. Permittees must implement species-specific minimization and avoidance measures and fully mitigate the impacts of the project.

Avoidance and minimization measures are actions that are incorporated into the engineering or design of the Delta Conveyance Project and are intended to avoid, reduce, or minimize adverse effects that apply to one or more species. These measures are collaboratively developed by DWR and CDFW. Examples of general measures used in the past include:

- Erecting protective fencing around sensitive habitat within construction sites

- Limited operating periods to avoid species breeding, migration, etc.
- Pre-construction surveys to identify and mark sensitive or suitable habitat features
- Onsite construction personnel education programs covering species identification, protected status, and measures to take if one is found.

More information about the Delta Conveyance Project ITP and associated documentation can be found on the project's permit portal website [here](#).

Related, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has evaluated the operational changes proposed through CESA consultation and found there are no changes to the impact assessment presented in the Final EIR. More information [here](#).

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Reclamation Manual

Documents out for Comment

Draft Policy

- There are currently no draft Policies out for review.

Draft Directives and Standards

- There are currently no draft Directives and Standards out for review.

Draft Facilities Instructions, Standards, and Techniques (FIST)

- There are currently no Instructions, Standards, and Techniques out for review.

Draft Reclamation Safety and Health Standards (RSHS)

- There are currently no Safety and Health Standards out for review.

Draft Reclamation Design Standards

- There are currently no Design Standards out for review.

San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint

The Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley (Blueprint) is a non-profit group of stakeholders, working to better understand our shared goals for water solutions that support environmental stewardship with the needs of communities and industries throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

Blueprint's strategic priorities for 2022-2025: Advocacy, Groundwater Quality and Disadvantaged Communities, Land Use Changes & Environmental Planning, Outreach & Communications, SGMA Implementation, Water Supply Goals, Governance, Operations & Finance.

Mission Statement: *"Unifying the San Joaquin Valley's voice to advance an accessible, reliable solution for a balanced water future for all."*

Committees

Executive/Budget/Personnel

Blueprint contribution requests have been circulated and Board members will be following up with participants.

Education and Communications

The Blueprint sent a coalition letter to chairman Esquivel to express our support for selecting the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program as the pathway to amending the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento San Joaquin Delta Watershed.

The UIF option would cause untold social and economic disruption in communities throughout the State, while also complicating interbasin negotiations on the Colorado River. Reduced State Water Project supplies as a result of the UIF alternative make it more difficult to achieve a collaborative solution to the Colorado River's 2026 Operational Guidelines among the seven basin states.

In contrast, the HRL pathway would provide additional protection of the beneficial use of water for native fish species while also providing greater water supply reliability and regulatory certainty for those same communities than the UIF approach.

Activities

Unified Water Plan for the San Joaquin Valley

The Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley Education Fund and the California Water Institute - Research and Education Division are working together to develop a Unified Water Plan for the San Joaquin Valley. Presentations and outreach are currently focused on Merced County and Madera County after successful presentations in Tulare, Kings, and Fresno Counties. This two-year project will culminate in publishing a report to be submitted to Congress.

CVP and SWP Water Supply Restrictions Strategic Plan¹²

The Hallmark Group developed a strategic plan and an implementation approach for review and approval by the Board. The Hallmark Group Contract for Strategic Advisory Services was approved for work completed from March 1, 2024, through on August 31, 2024. That contract was set at for a monthly retainer for 6 months. Hallmark billed against that retainer through the end of July 31. After the Strategic Plan was approved by the Blueprint Board, Hallmark provided a reduced level of effort while waiting for direction on the Implementation Plan. On a going forward basis Hallmark, starting September 1st, will continue on a time and materials for advisory services as needed through the end of the year.

The Board is engaging West Coast Advisors for outreach and advocacy to the public and state and federal officials specifically related to the efficacy of proposed regulations, water supply reductions, and environmental and socio-economic impacts in the SJV. The objective is to protect the operational flexibility restored by 2019 biological opinions and 2020 record of decision for coordinated operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, which restored approximately 300,000 acre-feet to the average south-of-Delta delivery capability of the projects, and to expand operational flexibility for the CVP and SWP. The plan is organized into four principal topics: (1) objectives; (2) obstacles to achieving objectives; (3) means of overcoming obstacles; and (4) time frame.

¹² Request from Authority staff

Urban Water Agency Partnerships

Consistent with the Groundwater Storage Investigation MOU that was signed in May, Metropolitan Water District, Stantec and the Blueprint have an agreed-upon final draft scope. Stantec is preparing a budget for approval to address the mutual analysis of groundwater storage and conveyance opportunities in the Central Valley. An investigation management committee is being established that will include directors from MET and the Blueprint to provide oversight and direction on the work. Additionally, Valley Water has expressed an interest in joining and coordinating with the Blueprint on this investigation, a copy of the final scope has been shared for discussion.

Farmer to Farmer – Great Valley Farm Water Partnership

Initial focus and priority for the partnership is on Silt Removal. The partnership will look to align efforts with South Delta Water Agency, CA Division of Boating and Waterways and the Army Corps of Engineers.

San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program (SJVW CAP)

Background

The CAP Plenary Group adopted work groups to implement the CAP Term Sheet¹³, adopted on November 22, 2022. During Phase II, Work Groups are continuing to meet and discuss priorities and drafting various documents for their respective areas: Safe Drinking Water; Sustainable Water Supplies; Ecosystem Health; Land Use, Demand Reduction and Land Repurposing; Implementation.

The Plenary group met on January 28 to continue discussions around what the next phase of the CAP would entail, discussions are ongoing associated with potential work products, and received a presentation from PPIC on the recent study about water available for recharge in the San Joaquin Valley.

¹³ Request from Authority staff