



Water Boards Bay-Delta Activities

August 13, 2009 BDCP Steering
Committee Presentation

By: Tom Howard



Water Boards

- State Water Resources Control Board
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

Activities Identified in Bay-Delta Strategic Workplan

- Southern Delta Salinity/San Joaquin River Flows
- Comprehensive Review of Bay-Delta Plan
- Water Right Compliance Enforcement
- Water Use Efficiency
- Comprehensive Delta Monitoring Program
- Water Quality/Contaminants Control



Southern Delta Salinity/San Joaquin River Flows

- Crop salinity tolerance report released
 - workshops scheduled for August 13 and November 4
- Analysis of San Joaquin River flow alternatives based on percentage of unimpaired flows
- DFG to submit flow recommendations this fall
- Modeling of alternatives beginning. Modeling workgroup formed.



Comprehensive Review of Bay-Delta Plan

- August 4 - State Water Board adopted Periodic Review identifying issues for review:
 - Delta Outflow Objectives
 - Export/Inflow Objectives
 - Delta Cross Channel Gate Closure Objectives
 - Suisun Marsh Objectives
 - Reverse Flow Objectives
 - Floodplain Habitat Flow Objectives
 - Monitoring and Special Studies Program
 - Other Changes to the Program of Implementation



Water Right Compliance Enforcement

- State Water Board staff investigating water diversions in the Delta to determine basis of right (initially focused on Union and Roberts Islands)
- Enforcement actions will be pursued for any illegal diversions starting in fall
- Report to State Water Board on any actions early to mid- 2010



Water Use Efficiency

- Recycled Water Policy Adopted May 2009
- Following release of final 20X2020 Water Conservation Plan State Water Board will consider staff recommendations for urban water conservation regulatory strategy
 - Report analyzing regulatory options expected to be completed in August

Comprehensive Delta Monitoring Program

- Stakeholder process started regarding governance and monitoring
- Stakeholder discussions regarding data integration and funding expected in early fall along with summary of existing monitoring
- Toxicity synthesis report expected in late fall
- Recommendations to Regional Board on beginning phases of program expected in late 2009/early 2010



Water Quality/Contaminants Control

- TMDLs
- Evaluate/Control Effects of Ammonia
- Central Valley Drinking Water Policy
- Once-Through Cooling Policy
- Sediment Quality Objectives
- Characterize Delta Island Discharges
- Delta Selenium Screening Study



TMDL Projects

- Vernalis/Upstream of Vernalis on San Joaquin River Salt and Boron
- Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel/Old & Middle River Dissolved Oxygen
- Delta Pesticides
- Delta Pathogens
- Delta/San Francisco Bay Mercury
- North San Francisco Bay Selenium
- San Francisco Bay PCBs

Evaluate/Control Effects of Ammonia

- Ammonia Summit August 18/19 to include discussions of recent information including:
 - Ammonia toxicity literature review
 - Follow-up studies on effects of wastewater treatment plant effluent on algal primary production
- Follow-up studies (lethal effects study released in April) to establish sub-lethal ammonia effect concentrations for larval and juvenile delta smelt
- Delta sampling program March 2009-February 2010 to: 1) determine if ambient concentrations potentially toxic, 2) support development of fate/transport model



Central Valley Drinking Water Policy

Agreed upon approach for first phase of the policy calls for Regional Board to consider draft resolution that would:

- include goals that organic carbon and pathogen levels do not degrade
- lay groundwork for requiring discharger monitoring of constituents of concern; identify studies; and establish a time schedule for collecting/assessing data to determine need to establish new water quality objectives



Once-Through Cooling Policy

- Draft Policy and Substitute Environmental Document on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling released
- Hearing scheduled for September 16



Sediment Quality Objectives

- September 2008- State Water Board approved Phase I sediment quality objectives targeting direct effects of toxic pollutants in sediment
- Work progressing on Phase II objectives to develop indicators to assess direct effect risk to sediment dwelling organisms and framework/indicators to assess indirect effects to human health through consumption of fish/shellfish



Characterize Delta Island Discharges

- July 9 - Dr. Don Weston (UC Berkeley) presented findings from 2008-2009 research concerning sources, seasonality, and toxicity of pyrethroid pesticides in Delta
- Information to be used to develop monitoring plan starting this summer to further characterize Delta island discharges and assess potential impacts on beneficial uses



Delta Selenium Screening Study

- 100 archived largemouth bass collected in Delta analyzed for selenium
- All selenium tissue analysis has been completed and final report is expected shortly



Additional Information Available at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/