

Attachment to Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Project Title:

Draft Staff Report/Substitute Environmental Document in Support of Sacramento/Delta Update to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary for the Sacramento River and its Tributaries, Delta Eastside Tributaries, and Delta

Project Location:

County: Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo, Yuba

Waterways: Sacramento River watershed, Calaveras River, Cosumnes River, Mokelumne River, Delta

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

Other: Cultural Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Tribal Cultural Resources, Fish and Wildlife

Project Description:

The draft Staff Report/Substitute Environmental Document (Staff Report) was prepared by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and fulfills the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State Water Board's regulations (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 3775 et seq.), as well as the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and other applicable requirements. The State Water Board's water quality control planning program is a certified regulatory program and is exempt from certain CEQA requirements, such as preparation of an environmental impact report (EIR). The draft Staff Report has been prepared in lieu of an EIR because it is recognized under CEQA and the regulations implementing CEQA as providing the functional equivalent.

CEQA does not require the State Water Board to submit this draft Staff Report for posting to the State Clearinghouse, but the State Water Board does so in the interest of transparency and in consideration of the anticipated public interest relating to the project.

The draft Staff Report supports 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 (the Calaveras, Consumnes, and Mokelumne Rivers). The purpose of the Sacramento/Delta update to the Bay-Delta Plan is to establish flow-based water quality objectives, a program of implementation, and monitoring and special studies for the reasonable protection of fish and wildlife beneficial uses in the Sacramento/Delta.

The draft Staff Report includes scientific information and environmental and economic evaluations to support 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. In addition, in response to comments from California Native American Tribes within the watershed, the State Water Board is considering incorporation of tribal and subsistence beneficial uses of water to the Bay-Delta Plan.