



State Water Resources Control Board

December 16, 2025

San Joaquin County Clerk
44 N. San Joaquin Street, Second Floor, Suite 260
Stockton, CA 95202

Filed Doc #: 39-12192025-363
Fri Dec 19 13:27:20 PST 2025
Page: 1 of 7 Fee: \$0.00
Steve J. Bestolarides
San Joaquin County Clerk

By Deputy: rosaa



Dear County Clerk:

On December 12, 2025, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) issued a notice of limited recirculation and notice of availability and opportunity for public comment and hearing on the *Draft Staff Report/Substitute Environmental Document in Support of Potential Updates 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 (2023 Draft Staff Report)*. As described in the notice, the State Water Board is conducting a limited recirculation of the 2023 Draft Staff Report by releasing a new chapter (Chapter 13) for public review and comment.

The State Water Board has already provided notice via email to County Clerks; however, State Water Board staff is aware that some County Clerks may not accept or may not be able to receive notices electronically. In response, staff are sending this letter and the attached notice to all County Clerks for counties within the project's study area. Although the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not require the State Water Board to submit the draft Staff Report or notice to County Clerks for posting, the State Water Board does so in the interest of transparency and in consideration of the anticipated public interest relating to the project.

Please note that, as a state agency, the State Water Board is exempt from paying any county clerk fees pursuant to California Government Code section 26857, which states, "No fee shall be charged by the clerk for service rendered to any municipality or county in the state, or to the state or national government, nor for any service relating thereto."

Please contact State Water Board staff at SacDeltaComments@waterboards.ca.gov if you have any questions.

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 | Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100 | www.waterboards.ca.gov

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Diane Riddle
Assistant Deputy Director
Division of Water Rights, Bay Delta and Hearings Branch

Enclosure

The following counties are within the study area for this project and received this notice:

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



State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF LIMITED RECIRCULATION AND NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND HEARING ON

REVISED DRAFT SACRAMENTO/DELTA UPDATES TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY/SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA WATERSHED AND SUPPORTING DRAFT STAFF REPORT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) staff has released for public review and comment a revised draft of updates to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed (Bay-Delta Plan or Plan).¹ The changes are focused on the portions of the Plan relevant to the Sacramento River watershed, Delta eastside tributaries (including the Calaveras, Cosumnes, and Mokelumne Rivers), and Delta (Sacramento/Delta) for the reasonable protection of fish and wildlife beneficial uses.

NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Board is conducting a limited recirculation of the draft Staff Report/Substitute Environmental Document (Staff Report) in support of Sacramento/Delta updates to the Bay-Delta Plan by releasing a new chapter (Chapter 13) for public review and comment. Chapter 13, *Revised Proposed Plan Amendments*, provides an updated project description with supporting environmental and economic analyses and is summarized further below.

NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Board will receive public comments on the December 2025 revised draft updates to the Bay-Delta Plan and Chapter 13 of the draft Staff Report, both in writing and orally at a Board hearing, in accordance with this notice.

¹ The Bay-Delta Plan was last amended in 2018 when the State Water Board adopted updates relevant to Lower San Joaquin River flows for the reasonable protection of fish and wildlife and southern Delta salinity for the reasonable protection of agriculture.

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 | Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100 | www.waterboards.ca.gov

The public hearing will be held at the following times and locations:

January 28-30, 2026, beginning at 9:00 am

Joe Serna Jr. CalEPA Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

And via Video and Teleconference

BACKGROUND

State law requires that the State Water Board adopt water quality control plans to reasonably protect beneficial uses of water. The Board is required to periodically review its water quality control plans and to update those plans as needed through a public process. The Board protects water quality that affects beneficial uses of water in the Bay-Delta, in part, through its Bay-Delta Plan. The Bay-Delta Plan identifies: (1) beneficial uses of water in the Bay-Delta, which currently include municipal, industrial, agricultural, and fish and wildlife uses; (2) largely flow-based water quality objectives to reasonably protect the beneficial uses; and (3) a program of implementation to achieve the objectives, including monitoring and reporting requirements.

In September 2023, the State Water Board released a draft Staff Report (2023 Draft Staff Report) evaluating the potential environmental, water supply, and economic effects of different alternatives for the Sacramento/Delta updates to the Bay-Delta Plan. The draft Staff Report evaluated the following: proposed Plan amendments that were based on the 2018 Framework for possible Sacramento/Delta updates to the Bay-Delta Plan; proposed voluntary agreements (VAs), referred to as the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (HRL) proposal; and Low Flow and High Flow alternatives; as well as several modular alternatives that would modify the other alternatives.

In October 2024, Board staff released a draft of potential updates to the Bay-Delta Plan that incorporated alternatives identified in the draft Staff Report with revisions based on public comments. Following a public comment period on the 2024 draft Plan, a revised draft of Plan updates was released in July 2025. The Board delayed public comment on the July 2025 revised draft Plan in order to make further revisions and to allow for comments on the revised draft Plan to be provided with the limited recirculation of the draft Staff Report as part of a new Chapter 13 to the draft Staff Report. Both of these documents reflect the updated proposed project, which brings together in the Bay-Delta Plan program of implementation a VA pathway that incorporates HRL commitments and would apply to HRL water rights and a regulatory pathway that would apply to other water rights and to HRL water rights in the event the VA pathway is discontinued. Chapter 13 provides a comparative analysis of the revised proposed Plan amendments based on the 2023 Draft Staff Report with any necessary modifications to ensure that the public has the opportunity for additional meaningful public review and comment.

With this notice, the Board is initiating a public comment period for the December 2025 revised draft Plan and Chapter 13 of the draft Staff Report. Attachment A includes a summary of the December 2025 revised draft Plan. Attachment B includes a more detailed summary of revisions contained in Chapter 13.

PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

The draft Staff Report 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 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 Guidelines may be cited where appropriate and relevant to help guide or inform the CEQA analysis consistent with CEQA's goals and standards. California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15088.5, subdivision (a) requires a lead agency to recirculate an EIR when significant new information is added, such as changes in the project or environmental setting as well as additional data or other information. If the revision is limited to a few chapters or portions of the EIR, the lead agency need only recirculate the chapters or portions that have been modified. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15088.5, subd. (c).) The portion of the draft Staff Report that is being recirculated is limited to Chapter 13.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The December 2025 revised draft updates to the Bay-Delta Plan and Chapter 13 of the draft Staff Report are available for review on the [Board's website](#). Parties who wish to make formal comments must do so in writing by the deadline specified below or orally at the public hearing.

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

The State Water Board is accepting written comments on the December 2025 revised draft Bay-Delta Plan and Chapter 13 of the draft Staff Report. The Board is not accepting further comments on the remainder of the draft Staff Report that was previously released for public comment. In order to be fully considered, written comments must be received no later than **February 2, 2026**.

To support efficient review of written comments, commenters are encouraged to organize their letters using clear headings to distinguish between comments on the December 2025 revised draft Plan and Chapter 13 of the draft Staff Report. In addition, commenters are requested to identify and distinguish specific CEQA-related comments from other comments, where appropriate.

Comments should be submitted via email to SacDeltaComments@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line "**Comment Letter – Revised Draft Sacramento/Delta Bay-Delta Plan Updates & Ch. 13 of Draft Staff Report.**" If comments exceed email file size limitations, please send an email to the above address at least 24 hours in advance of

the comment deadline for assistance with submitting documents via the Board's File Transfer Protocol (FTP) site.

Comments on the revised draft Bay-Delta Plan and Chapter 13 of the draft Staff Report will inform development of a final draft of the Plan and final Staff Report. The final Staff Report will contain responses to previously submitted comments on the 2023 Draft Staff Report (including responsive edits to the Staff Report) as well as any additional comments on Chapter 13. Both the final Staff Report and final draft of the Plan will be available for public review and comment before being considered for adoption by the Board at a future Board meeting.

HEARING INFORMATION

The State Water Board will conduct the public hearing in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 649 et seq. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants. Although a quorum of the Board is expected to be present at the hearing, the State Water Board will not take any formal action. The hearing will include both a physical meeting location and an option to participate remotely as described below.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive input on the December 2025 revised draft updates to the Bay-Delta Plan and Chapter 13 of the draft Staff Report. The hearing days will include: (1) introductory remarks from the Board Chair and Board members; (2) a staff presentation; and (3) public comment with the opportunity for combined comments through panel presentations.

Speakers will have an opportunity to provide oral comments during the hearing. Speakers should provide oral comments at only one hearing date. Individual comments will be limited to 3 minutes. If you wish to make an individual comment, please fill out a [virtual speaker card](#) by the deadline noted below. For those who plan to participate virtually, the Clerk to the Board will respond to your form one business day before the hearing with the information needed to join the meeting.

For those who wish to provide a panel presentation, please email SacDeltaComments@waterboards.ca.gov by the deadline identified below with the following information: (1) the date of the hearing the panel is requesting to present at; (2) the names, affiliations, and email addresses of each member of the panel; (3) whether each panel member will present in person or remotely; and (4) a short description of the content the panel plans to present. Panel presentations will be limited to 20 minutes (depending on the number of panel requests) unless otherwise directed. Panels that would like to make a PowerPoint presentation must submit their PowerPoint presentation to SacDeltaComments@waterboards.ca.gov by the deadline identified below.

To ensure a well-organized and efficient hearing, please adhere to the following deadlines:

Hearing Dates	Deadline	Date
January 28-30, 2026	Panel presentation requests	January 21, 2026
	PowerPoint presentations	January 26, 2026
	Virtual speaker cards	January 27, 2026

For those who only wish to watch the hearing, a webcast will be available at youtube.com/user/BoardWebSupport/ and video.calepa.ca.gov/ (closed captioning available) and should be used unless you intend to comment.

FUTURE NOTIFICATIONS

To receive future email notifications about the Bay-Delta Plan processes, including to receive notice of future opportunity for public comment and hearing, subscribe to the "Bay Delta Notices" topic (listed under Water Rights).

AVAILABILITY OF LANGUAGE SERVICES

To request oral interpretation or sign language services, please submit your request at least 10 business days before the hearing by contacting the Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs at (916) 341-5254 or OPP-LanguageServices@waterboards.ca.gov.

Telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at: TTY (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

VISITING THE CALEPA BUILDING

All visitors to the CalEPA Building are required to sign in at the security guard station located just inside the main entrance. Visit the [CalEPA website](#) for additional information on traveling to the CalEPA Building.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding this notice, email SacDeltaComments@waterboards.ca.gov.

December 12, 2025
Date


Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board