



State Water Resources Control Board

UPDATED NOTICE OF LISTENING SESSION ON STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD EFFORTS TO UPDATE AND IMPLEMENT THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY/SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA ESTUARY

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) staff will hold a public listening session on Monday, March 27, 2023. This listening session is intended to receive input from environmental interests, representatives of economically disadvantaged communities (DACs), and black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) organizations on the Board's current efforts to update and implement the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan), including consideration of possible Voluntary Agreements to those update and implementation efforts. The listening session will be convened by the State Water Board's Chair Joaquin Esquivel and will consist of opening remarks from Chair Esquivel and a presentation by staff from the State Water Board on its Bay-Delta planning and implementation, with additional information on proposed Voluntary Agreements from staff with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Following which, participants will have the opportunity to provide input and ask questions.

Based on interest in the listening session and to accommodate participant schedules, the listening session time has been extended. The listening session will be held from 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM, with a 30 minute break from approximately 4:30 PM – 5:00 PM. Staff will provide an overview of its planning processes at the beginning of the listening session and will provide an abbreviated presentation at 5:00 PM for those that may be joining later. Following both staff presentations, participants will have the opportunity to provide input and ask questions.

Monday, March 27, 2023
1:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Remote Participation Only

PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

If you wish to speak during the listening session, please register for and join the listening session via the Zoom online platform. You may register for the Zoom webinar via: https://waterboards.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NfdOop6mRn6GLw32OuXo_g

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

After submitting your registration information, you will receive an email from Zoom with a link to the listening session. Participants should register by **noon on Friday, March 24, 2023**. It is important to State Water Board staff that all listening session participants have the opportunity to ask questions and provide input during the listening session. However, depending on the number of attendees, it may be necessary to have time limits for comments and questions. However, additional follow discussions can be scheduled as needed.

If you wish to view the listening session only, a webcast will be available at <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/> (closed captioning available). This option should be used for viewing the listening session unless you intend to ask questions.

The listening session will also be recorded and posted to the State Water Board's website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/.

BACKGROUND

Protecting the Bay-Delta watershed is one of the State Water Board's primary responsibilities and top priorities. The State Water Board is responsible for adopting and updating the Bay-Delta Plan, which identifies beneficial uses of water in the Bay-Delta watershed, water quality objectives for the reasonable protection of those beneficial uses, and a program of implementation to achieve the objectives.

The Bay-Delta watershed is a critical part of California's water supply system and provides habitat for fish, wildlife, and species with high ecological, economic, and cultural importance. Native species in the Bay-Delta ecosystem are experiencing an ecological crisis due to habitat conversion, degraded water quality, reductions in flows, changes in the timing and distribution of flows, and the inability to access natal habitats blocked by dams and levees. This has led to severe declines, and in some cases extinctions, of native fish and other aquatic species. The State Water Board is actively working to address many of these issues through the update and implementation of the Bay-Delta Plan.

The Bay-Delta Plan is currently in the process of being updated and implemented through two separate processes called Plan amendments. The first Plan amendment is focused on Lower San Joaquin River flows and southern Delta salinity, and the second Plan amendment is focused on the Sacramento River, Bay-Delta, and Delta Eastside Tributaries.

In December 2018, the State Water board adopted Bay-Delta Plan amendments focused on Lower San Joaquin River flows for the protection of fish and wildlife and southern Delta salinity for the protection of agriculture. On July 15, 2022, the State Water Board issued a Notice of Preparation and announced a California Environmental Quality Act scoping meeting for a proposed regulation to implement the 2018 Bay-Delta Plan update.

The State Water Board is also considering updates to the Bay-Delta Plan focused on the Sacramento River and its tributaries, Delta eastside tributaries (including Calaveras, Cosumnes, and Mokelumne rivers), interior Delta flows, and Delta outflows. Currently, the State Water Board is developing a Staff Report/Substitute Environmental Document as part of this Plan amendment. This document provides background on the purpose and

need for updating the Bay-Delta Plan, project alternatives (including a potential Voluntary Agreement alternative), as well as technical, environmental, and economic analyses of the proposed alternatives, among other information. The Staff Report/Substitute Environmental Document is still being drafted with an anticipated public release date of late spring/early summer 2023.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

More information on the Board's Bay-Delta planning and implementation processes is available at:

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

If you would like to receive email updates about the State Water Board's Bay-Delta planning and implementation processes, please sign up for the State Water Board's "Water Rights – Bay Delta Notices" email list at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.html.

CONTACT

Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact staff at Bay-Delta@waterboards.ca.gov prior to the listening session. If you have any questions regarding this notice or how to participate in the listening session, you may send an email to staff at Bay-Delta@waterboards.ca.gov.

LANGUAGE SERVICES

If you require interpretation or translation in a language other than English or would like to request sign language services, please contact us at (916) 322-4265 or languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov before March 17, 2023.