
State Water Resources Control Board

TO: Attached Address List

FROM: Eileen Sobeck
Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board

DATE: June 13, 2022

SUBJECT: OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INITIAL STANISLAUS,
TUOLUMNE, AND MERCED WORKING GROUP

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) invites participants identified in the attached mailing list to join the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced (STM) Working Group, in accordance with the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary, as amended on December 12, 2018 (Bay-Delta Plan or Plan). The State Water Board also invites other interested persons or entities with appropriate expertise to request an opportunity to participate in the STM Working Group.

BACKGROUND

The December 2018 amendments to the Bay-Delta Plan established new and revised flow objectives for the reasonable protection of fish and wildlife beneficial uses on the Lower San Joaquin River (LSJR) and its three salmon bearing tributaries, the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers. The LSJR flow objectives in the Bay-Delta Plan consist of a narrative objective, a numeric minimum base flow objective on the LSJR at Vernalis, and a numeric tributary flow objective on each of the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers.¹

The Bay-Delta Plan includes a program of implementation that identifies and describes the nature of actions which are necessary to achieve the narrative and numeric objectives. For the LSJR flow objectives, the program of implementation requires the State Water Board to complete multiple actions including, but not limited to, development of biological goals, development of compliance methods for the LSJR tributary flow objective, procedures for adaptive implementation, and establishment of the STM Working Group. The Bay-Delta Plan

¹The LSJR tributary flow objective applies from February through June and requires maintaining 40 percent of unimpaired flow, within an adaptive range of 30 to 50 percent of unimpaired flow, from each of the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers at the flow gauge nearest the confluence with the LSJR. During this same time, the flows at Vernalis on the San Joaquin River, as provided by the tributary flow objective, shall be no lower than a base flow of 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), with an adaptive range between 800 and 1,200 cfs, inclusive.

requires establishing the STM Working Group to assist with implementation of the LSJR tributary and base flow objectives, including coordination of tributary flows, monitoring and assessment, and evaluation of the LSJR flow objectives. The program of implementation also states that the State Water Board will seek recommendations from the STM Working Group on biological goals, compliance methods for the LSJR tributary flow objectives, procedures for implementing adaptive methods, annual adaptive operations plans, and the San Joaquin River Monitoring and Evaluation Program (SJRMEP). Some of these actions, such as biological goals and compliance methods have been initiated, while other actions, such as annual adaptive operations plans and the SJRMEP will be initiated in future actions to implement the flow objectives.

The Bay-Delta Plan envisions the creation of the STM Working Group as a watershed group and forum for facilitating coordination among the State Water Board and interested water agencies and other stakeholders who have expertise in LSJR issues. Subgroups of the STM Working Group may be formed as appropriate, and State Water Board staff may also initiate activities in coordination with members of the STM Working Group. Issues and activities that will benefit from STM coordination will develop and adjust over time as the State Water Board proceeds through the implementation process, including preparing products such as biological goals and compliance methods.

SOLICITATION OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE STM WORKING GROUP

The State Water Board is forming the initial STM Working Group and inviting specific participants from organizations with expertise in LSJR, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced River fisheries management, hydrology, operations, monitoring, and assessment needs. As set forth in the Bay-Delta Plan, these organizations include the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and water diverters and users on the LSJR, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers. The STM Working Group will also include State Water Board staff.

Other interested persons or entities with appropriate expertise may request the Executive Director for an opportunity to participate in the STM Working Group. Examples of persons or entities that may have required levels of expertise and experience include, but are not limited to, the Delta Science Program, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, university and private-sector scientists, resource conservation districts, San Francisco Estuary Partnership, and non-governmental organizations.

STM Working Group members are expected to support implementation of the Bay-Delta Plan and LSJR flow objectives with collaborative and constructive contributions to the subject matter of the STM Working Group. The STM Working Group will evolve over time as implementation actions proceed. Representatives of the organizations identified on the attached mailing list who are interested in becoming members of the initial working group should submit their intent to join via email to STM-WorkingGroup@waterboards.ca.gov. Please title the subject line: "Intent to join the STM Working Group" and identify the entity and individual who will serve as the primary participant from your organization

Organizations and individuals with appropriate expertise who are interested in becoming members of the STM Working Group, but were not directly invited, should submit a request to join the STM Working Group via email to STM-WorkingGroup@waterboards.ca.gov. Please title the subject line: "Request to join the STM Working Group" and identify the proposed person who will serve as the STM representative and their organization, if any, and a description of the

proposed STM participant's expertise. Please limit the descriptions of relevant experience to no more than one page.

FUTURE NOTIFICATIONS

For additional information on the STM Working Group, its members, and efforts, please visit the State Water Board's Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Working Group webpage

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/implementation-activities-lower-san-joaquin-river.html). Any person desiring to receive future notices concerning

the STM Working Group should sign up for the State Water Board's "STM Working Group" email subscription list under "Water Rights" at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information on this matter, please direct questions to Erin Foresman at STM-WorkingGroup@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Eileen Sobeck
Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board

Initial STM Working Group Memo Mailing list

Entity	Name	Title	Email
Department of Fish and Wildlife	Julie Vance	Regional Manager	Julie.Vance@wildlife.ca.gov
NOAA Fisheries - West Coast Region	Cathy Marcinkevage	Assistant Regional Administrator	cathy.marcinkevage@noaa.gov
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anadromous Fish Restoration Program	Baker Holden	Deputy Project Leader, USFWS, Anadromous Fish Restoration Program	baker_holden@fws.gov
Merced Irrigation District	John Sweigard	General Manager	jsweigard@mercedid.org
Turlock Irrigation District	Michelle Reimers	General Manager	mareimers@tid.org
Modesto Irrigation District	Ed Franciosa	General Manager	Ed.Franciosa@mid.org
South San Joaquin Irrigation District	Peter Rietkerk	General Manager	prietkerk@ssjid.com
Stockton East Water District	Justin M. Hopkins	Interim General Manager	jhopkins@sewd.net
Oakdale Irrigation District	Scot Moody	General Manager	smoody@oakdaleirrigation.com
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	Michael Carlin	Deputy General Manager and Chief Operating Officer	mcarlin@sflower.org
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Kristin White	Operations Manager, Central Valley Operations Office	knwhite@usbr.gov
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