

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS



Mountain Counties Water Resources Association
Presented by: Erin Ragazzi – March 9, 2012

PRESENTATION FOCUS

- Background on State Water Board
 - Mission
 - Role & Responsibilities
- Delta Effort
 - San Joaquin River & Southern Delta Salinity
 - Comprehensive Update of Bay-Delta Plan
 - Delta Tributaries
- Delta Coordination
- In Conclusion
 - Contacts and Resources

STATE WATER BOARD'S MISSION

To preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov>

STATE WATER BOARD: MAIN PROGRAMS

Enforcement

Financial Assistance

Water Quality

Water Rights

Work in coordination with nine
Regional Water Quality Control Boards

STATE WATER BOARD: BACKGROUND

- Joint authority for water allocation and water quality protection to provide comprehensive protection of California's waters
- Protect and enforce many water uses including needs of industry, agriculture, municipal districts, and environment
 - More specifically referred to as beneficial uses which include: irrigation, domestic supply, power generation, spawning habitat, wildlife habitat, etc.
- Balancing role

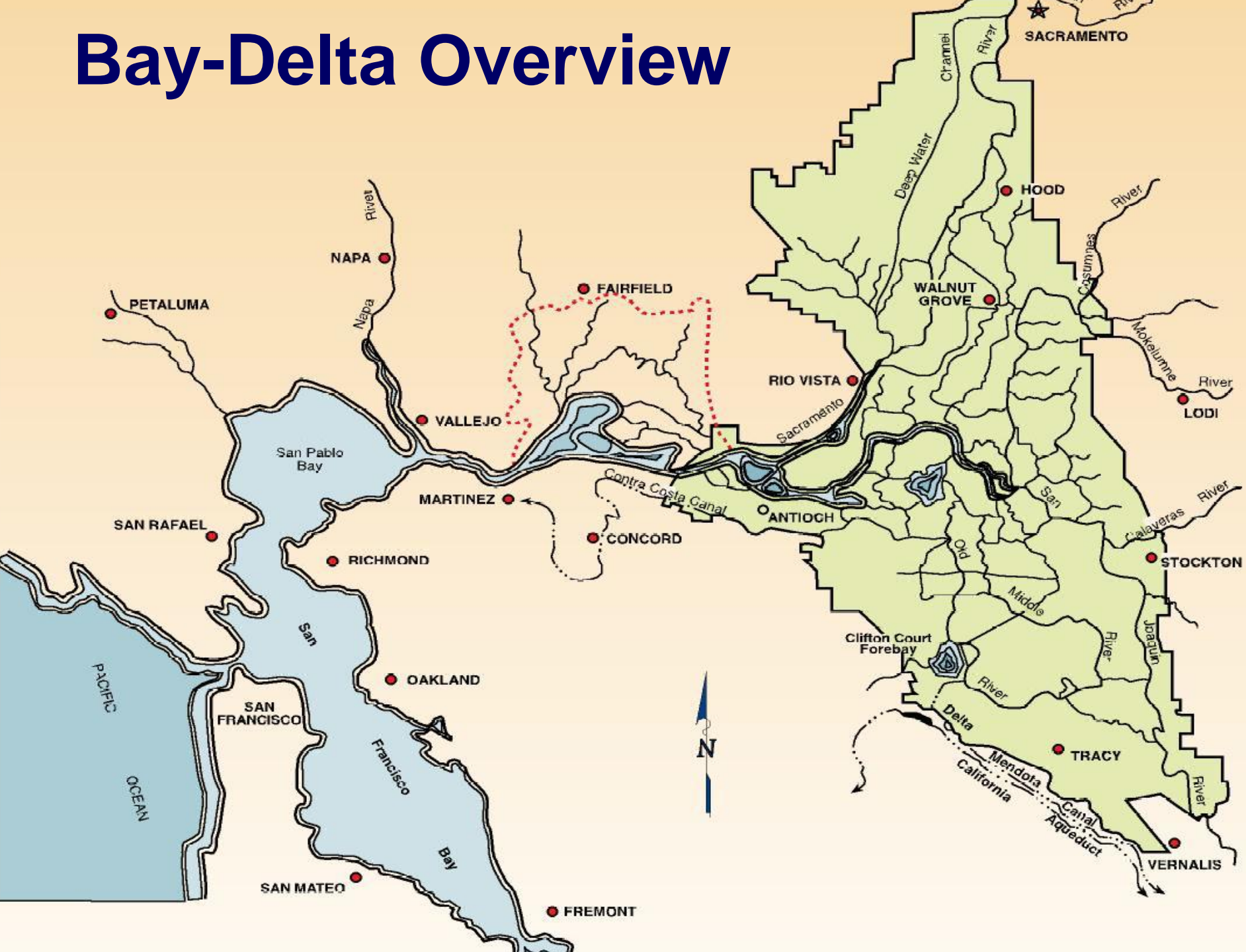
STATE WATER BOARD: BASIN PLANS

- Formally referred to as water quality control plans
- Outline the beneficial uses for water within a watershed, as well as water quality objectives designed to protect uses (water quality standards)
- Also outlines a program of implementation for achieving the water quality objectives
- Developed by State Water Board or Regional Water Quality Control Board depending on scope

STATE WATER BOARD: BASIN PLANS

- Most recent basin plan for Bay-Delta adopted 2006: *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary* (**Bay-Delta Plan**)

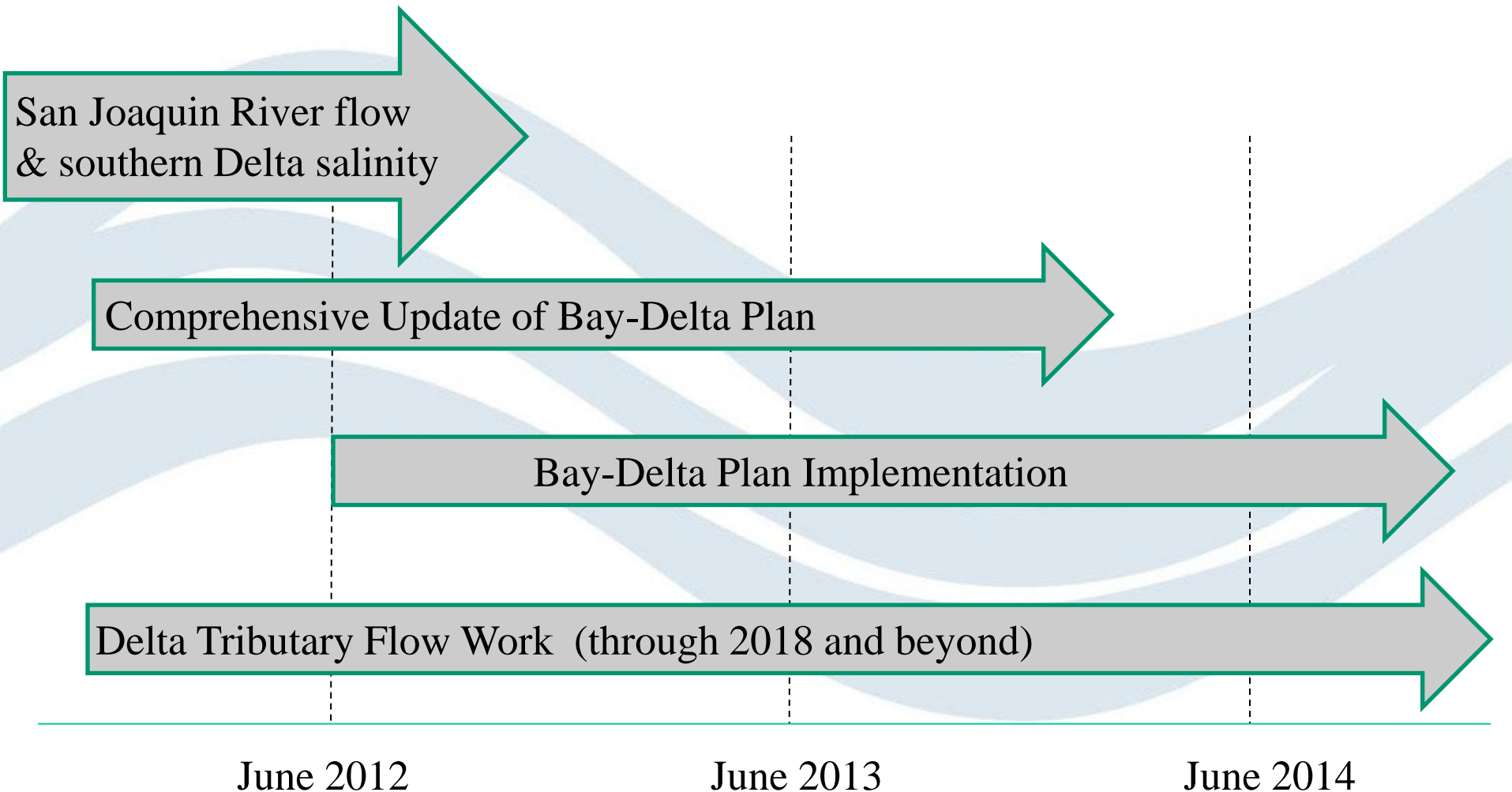
Bay-Delta Overview



BAY-DELTA EFFORT OVERVIEW

- Updates to existing Bay-Delta Plan
 - San Joaquin River (SJR) Flow Objectives & Southern Delta Salinity
 - Comprehensive Update
 - PLUS: Plan Implementation
- Delta Tributaries
 - Development of flow objectives for priority tributaries

BAY-DELTA EFFORT OVERVIEW (Picture Format)



BAY-DELTA EFFORT: RECENT ACTIONS TO DATE

February 2009: Notice of Preparation for comprehensive update and implementation of Bay-Delta Plan

August 2010: Delta Flow Criteria

April 2011: Revised Notice of Preparation - SJR flow and southern Delta salinity Draft Objectives

October 2011: SJR Technical Report Peer Review

January 2012: Notice of Preparation - Comprehensive Bay-Delta Plan Update

February 2012: Posted Draft Technical Appendices for Substitute Environmental Document – SJR flow and southern Delta salinity

June 2009

June 2010

June 2011

June 2012

June 2013

June 2014

March 9, 2012

Slide No. 11

SJR FLOW OBJECTIVES & SOUTHERN DELTA SALINITY

Recent & Upcoming Dates	
February 24, 2012	Release Three Technical Appendices Associated with Environmental Document – Substitute Environmental Document (SED)
March 20, 2012	Informational Session on Agricultural Economics & Power Production Reports (technical appendices)
April 2012	Release Draft SED
June 2012	Workshop on SED
August 2012	Release Final Draft SED
October 2012	Board Meeting to Consider Adoption of SED & Bay-Delta Plan Update

COMPREHENSIVE BAY-DELTA PLAN UPDATE

Recent & Upcoming Dates	
January 24, 2012	Issue Supplemental Notice of Preparation (NOP)
April 25, 2012	Written Comments Due (by 12:00 Noon)
May 16, 2012	Scoping Meeting
February 2013*	Release Draft Environmental Documents
April 2013*	Workshop
June 2013*	Release Final Draft Environmental Documents
August 2013*	Board Meeting to Consider Adoption
* Estimated Date	

DELTA TRIBUTARIES

- **Possible** Priority Tributaries (*illustrative example provided in Delta Stewardship Council's Staff Report*):
 - Merced, Tuolumne, Stanislaus, & lower SJR (part of SJR and Southern Delta Salinity Effort)
 - America and Cosumnes Rivers
 - Lower Butte, Mill, & Deer Creeks
- Others?

DELTA TRIBUTARIES

- Soliciting input on priority tributaries from agencies including:
 - California Department of Fish and Game
 - Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
 - United States Fish and Wildlife Service
 - National Marine Fisheries Service
 - Delta Stewardship Council

DELTA TRIBUTARIES

- Interested in information or data for tributaries
 - Plan to reach out to watershed groups, resource agencies, and others with knowledge of priority tributaries
- Interested in working with established groups, especially those with an interest in flow
 - For example: Water Forum on American River

DELTA TRIBUTARIES: WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

- Water quality certifications for hydropower projects often contain new or updated minimum in-stream flow requirements
- Upcoming water quality certifications for Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) projects include:

Project	River	License Expiration
Middle Fork American River	American River	February 28, 2013
Yuba-Bear	Bear River (Yuba)	April 30, 2013
Columbia Water Supply	Columbia Ditch (South Fork Stanislaus)	April 30, 2016

DELTA COORDINATION – COMMON ELEMENTS

- Delta-focused processes include:
 - State Water Board
 - Reasonable protection of beneficial uses, consider competing uses for water – “balancing”
 - Delta Stewardship Council
 - Plan to achieve “coequal goals” of providing more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem
 - Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)
 - Improve health of ecological system as a whole and provide more reliable water supply

DELTA COORDINATION

- Wide range of interested parties includes the general public and agencies *(just to name a few)*:
 - Delta Conservancy
 - Delta Independent Science Board
 - Delta Protection Commission
 - Delta Watermaster
 - Regional Water Quality Control Board
 - United States Environmental Protection Agency
 - United State Fish and Wildlife Services & National Marine Fisheries Service: Biological Opinions

KEY DELTA ACTION DATES* (*across agencies & processes*)

DSC: Plan and EIR adoption, April 2012

SWB: Bay-Delta Plan, Comprehensive Update Scoping Meeting, May 2012

SWB: Bay-Delta Plan, SJR flow & southern Delta salinity workshop, June 2012

BDCP: Draft EIR/EIS, July 2012

SWB: Bay-Delta Plan, SJR flow & southern Delta salinity adoption, October 2012

BDCP: Final Plan & EIR/EIS, December 2012

SWB: B-D Plan, Comprehensive Update workshop, April 2013

SWB: Bay-Delta Plan, Comprehensive Update adoption, August 2013

June 2012

June 2013

CONTACTS

- SJR Flow Objectives & Southern Delta Salinity:
 - Ms. Diane Riddle
 - Email: driddle@waterboards.ca.gov
 - Phone: 916.341.5297
- Comprehensive Delta Update:
 - Ms. Karen Niiya
 - Email: kyniiya@waterboards.ca.gov
 - Phone: 916.341.5365
- Priority Delta Tributaries (focus on Sacramento):
 - Ms. Erin Ragazzi
 - Email: enragazzi@waterboards.ca.gov
 - Phone: 916.322.9634

Resources:

LYRIS Email Lists

- Subscription form can be accessed at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml
- Available for many programs, including:
 - Bay Delta: “Bay Delta Notices”
 - Water Quality Certification: “Water Rights Water Quality Certification”
 - Transfers: “Water Rights Transfers”
 - Other topics related to water rights include: applications, petitions, regulations, water measurement, etc.