State Water Resources Control Board

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

SEP 0 8 2009

Ms. Alexis Strauss, Director
Water Division (WTR-1)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. Strauss:

PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE 2006 WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY/SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA ESTUARY (2009 PERIODIC REVIEW)

Pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.), the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) is submitting to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) its review of the 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan). In compliance with state and federal law, the Board has reviewed the Bay-Delta Plan and identified a priority list of water quality objectives and plan elements that the Board will review further for possible amendment or addition to the Bay-Delta Plan. (See Cal. Wat. Code § 13240 [requiring periodic review of water quality control plans]; 33 U.S.C. § 303(c)(1) [requiring triennial review of water quality standards].) After a public hearing and opportunity for public comment, the Board adopted the 2009 Periodic Review Staff Report (Staff Report) of the Bay-Delta Plan by Resolution No. 2009-0065 at its August 4, 2009 Board meeting.

For reasons explained in the Staff Report, the Board will further review the following elements in the water quality control planning process:

- Delta Outflow Objectives
- Export/Inflow Objectives
- Delta Cross Channel Gate Closure Objectives
- Suisun Marsh Objectives
- Reverse Flow Objectives (Old and Middle River Flow Objectives)
- Floodplain Habitat Flow Objectives
- Changes to the Monitoring and Special Studies Program
- Other Changes to the Program of Implementation

In addition, the Board previously has committed to review the southern Delta salinity and San Joaquin River flow objectives and it has already begun the water quality control planning process for those objectives.

Although, as with certain plan amendments, the Board does not believe it is required to submit all parts of the 2009 Periodic Review to U.S. EPA, it nonetheless provides the entire Staff Report, including the portions relating to objectives for flow and operations to U.S. EPA, as a matter of state-federal comity. The enclosed packet contains *Resolution No. 2009-0065* and the *Staff*

Report on Periodic Review of the 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary. Upon request, the Administrative Record for the 2009 Periodic Review is available for review.

If you have any questions on this subject, you may contact me at (916) 341-5615 or Tom Kimball, Chief of the Bay-Delta Unit at (916) 341-5289 or at tkimball@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Rice

Dorothy Rice
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: (electronic copy)
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