

## EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

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DATE: August 7, 2025

MEMO TO: Board of Directors

THROUGH: Clifford C. Chan, General Manager *CCC*

FROM: Alice E. Towey, Director of Water and Natural Resources *AET*

SUBJECT: Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update

### SUMMARY

On July 24, 2025, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) released their revised draft of updates to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan (July Draft). The July Draft includes a dual pathway approach for meeting water quality objectives: a flow-only approach based on 55 percent unimpaired flow with provisions to protect coldwater habitat, and the Voluntary Agreements (VAs, also known as the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program).

### DISCUSSION

The SWRCB is responsible for updating the Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP) for the San Francisco Bay and San Joaquin/Sacramento River Delta that identifies and protects beneficial uses of the watershed. The SWRCB began its current update of the Bay-Delta WCQP in 2009, splitting the process into two phases: Phase 1 covered the San Joaquin River and Southern Delta salinity standards, and Phase 2 focused on the Sacramento River and east-side tributaries, including the Mokelumne River.

On October 25, 2024, the SWRCB issued a first draft WQCP focused on Phase 2 updates that included several alternatives for the protection of fish and wildlife. The SWRCB held a series of formal workshops and working meetings to receive feedback on elements of the plan. District staff provided comments during the workshops, participated in the working meetings, and submitted two comment letters.

The SWRCB released the revised July Draft on July 24, 2025 for public review. The July Draft includes both a regulatory pathway and the VA pathway. The regulatory pathway includes a 55 percent unimpaired flow requirement that has been modified to include offramps related to hydrology, as well as provisions related to protection of coldwater habitat. The VA pathway includes a combination of flow and habitat measures under the umbrella of a robust science program. The July Draft also includes the designation of the Tribal Tradition and Cultural beneficial use for the Bay-Delta watershed.

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There are two scheduled public hearings on September 8 and 9; written comments are due on September 10. Staff are reviewing the document and will prepare a comment letter. The document is available for review at the SWRCB's website:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/bay\\_delta/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/)

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