



California Environmental Protection Agency  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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**STATE WATER BOARD RELEASES DRAFT BAY/DELTA PLAN**

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SACRAMENTO – California Secretary for Environmental Protection James M. Strock today announced the process which will be used by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to approve and implement the draft Bay/Delta water quality standards released today.

"We arrived at this historic occasion because the State Water Board worked closely with water users, environmental groups and the general public. All of the parties understood the importance of the effort and made contributions to a draft plan which will protect the delta and the state's economy. This model of cooperation solved the state's other previously intractable water conflict - Mono Lake. Governor Wilson and his Water Board are to be commended for their leadership and vision on these critical environmental issues," said Strock.

In developing the draft Bay Delta water quality standards, the SWRCB held a series of six public workshops with stakeholders to discuss innovative ideas which would meet the water quality and biological needs of the delta. At the conclusion of those workshops, nine separate proposals were melded into one as the parties sought consensus and understood the importance of retaining control of their destinies here in California.

"It is always better to retain local control of environmental issues. We see that in the Clean Air Act, hazardous waste cleanups and water policy. The solutions to these problems will take place at the state level and distant regulators in Washington D.C. should defer to leadership states like California. After approving these draft standards in the spring, we will follow state law in making the water rights and water quality changes needed to fulfill the promise of this historic agreement," said Strock.

Within the next several days, the SWRCB will issue a 45-day hearing notice to take public comments on the draft water standards. Soon after the public hearing, the SWRCB will hold a public meeting to vote on final adoption of the plan. After the plan has been approved, a series of water rights proceedings will begin to allocate the water costs of the plan according to existing state law.

Copies of the Draft Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan are available by contacting the Public Information Office at SWRCB at (916) 657-1247.