

Administering Delta Water Rights During Shortages

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2016 Water Education Foundation Delta Tour

Rio Vista, June 15, 2016



DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL



Disclaimers

- I am not speaking for the SWRCB or the DSC
- I am not presenting State policy
- I am expressing personal observations and opinions, except where specifically referenced to published materials
- **The co-equal goals:**

'Coequal goals' means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place. (CA Water Code §85054)



Role of the Delta Watermaster

- **The Office of the Delta Watermaster was created as part of the Delta Reform Act of 2009**
- **The Watermaster is an independent officer of the State**
- **Appointed to a four-year term by the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board)**
- **Reports jointly to the Water Board and the Delta Stewardship Council**
- **The Watermaster is responsible for:**
 - **Overseeing day-to-day administration of water rights located in the Delta**
 - **Implementing legislative mandates relating to water in the Delta**
 - **Improving water supply reliability, resiliency and predictability**
 - **Advising the Council and the Board on Delta Policy**



Drought Year Water Actions

- **Water availability analyses**
 - Coordinated with the Division of Water Rights
 - Compare forecasts of water supply and demand
 - Alert diverters to potential insufficiency
 - Administer curtailments under the priority system
- **2015 Voluntary Diversion Reduction Program**
 - Report Posted on Watermaster Website
http://waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/delta_watermaster/docs/diversion_reduction15.pdf
- **Comparative Study of Methods for Determining Consumptive Use of Water within the Delta**



Recent Developments

- **Yolo Bypass Memorandum of Understanding Executed**
- **Court Upholds Statutory Requirement for Consistency with Delta Plan**
- **Court Rules against Delta Water Rights Claimant**
- **Water Board Dismisses Enforcement Actions against BBID and WSID**



A Peek into the Future

- **Measurement of agricultural diversions**
- **Petition for change in Projects' water rights for WaterFix (Hearings begin on July 26)**
- **Updates for the Delta Water Quality Control Plan and the Delta Plan**
- **Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act**
- **Balancing among Priorities, Riparians, Public Trust and Reasonable Use**
- **Metropolitan to Acquire Delta Islands**
- **Litigation, Cooperation or Some of Each?**



Questions?

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