

Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update

Water Education Foundation 2017 Executive Briefing
March 22, 2017



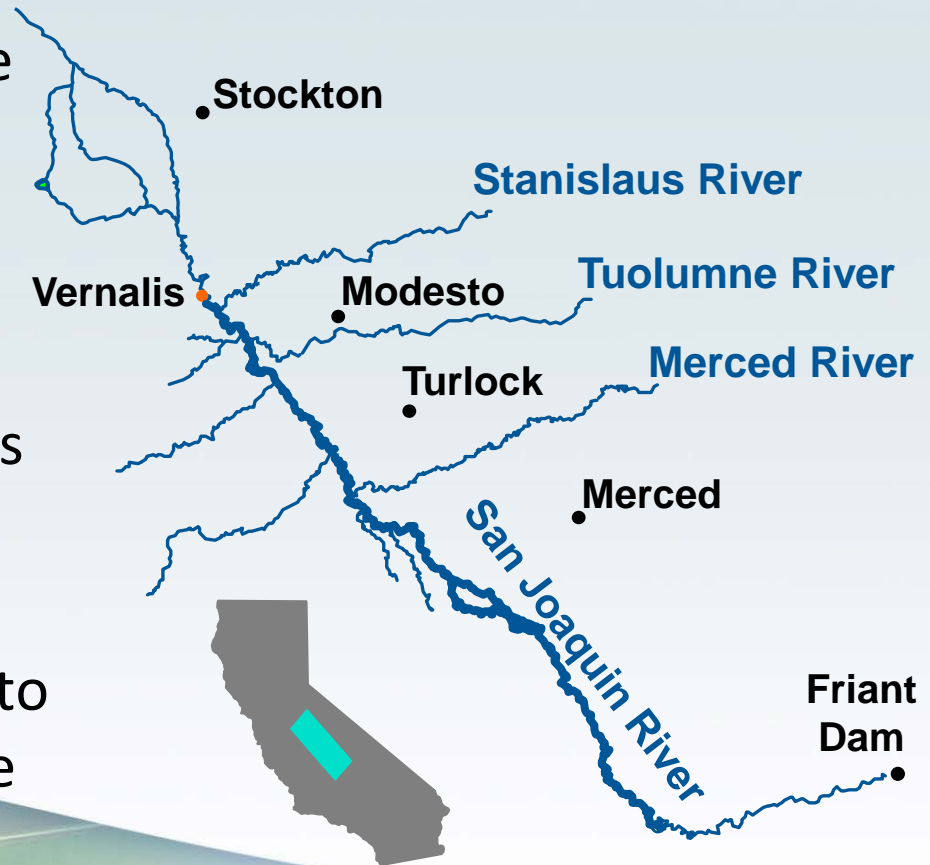
Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan (Bay-Delta Plan)

- Identifies beneficial uses to be protected, water quality objectives for the reasonable protection of beneficial uses, a program of implementation for achieving objectives, and monitoring and studies
- Porter-Cologne and Clean Water Act require regular review
 - Last significant update was 21 years ago in 1995
 - Species have been declining – the need for update was identified 10 years ago (in 2006 Plan update)

Phase I: Update of San Joaquin River flow and Southern Delta Salinity Requirements

Staff proposal:

- Provide a portion (40% of unimpaired flows) of the February – June inflows to the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers for environmental purposes to achieve critical ecological functions with other measures in an adaptive management framework
- Modify salinity requirements to reasonably protect agriculture



Phase II: Sacramento River and Delta Tributary Inflows, Delta Outflows, Coldwater Habitat and Interior Flows

Staff proposal for updates to fish and wildlife requirements:

- Inflows: concept similar to Phase I (provide a portion of inflows for environmental purposes in adaptive management framework)
- Outflows: required inflows required as outflow;
- Cold water habitat; and
- Interior Delta flows to prevent entrainment



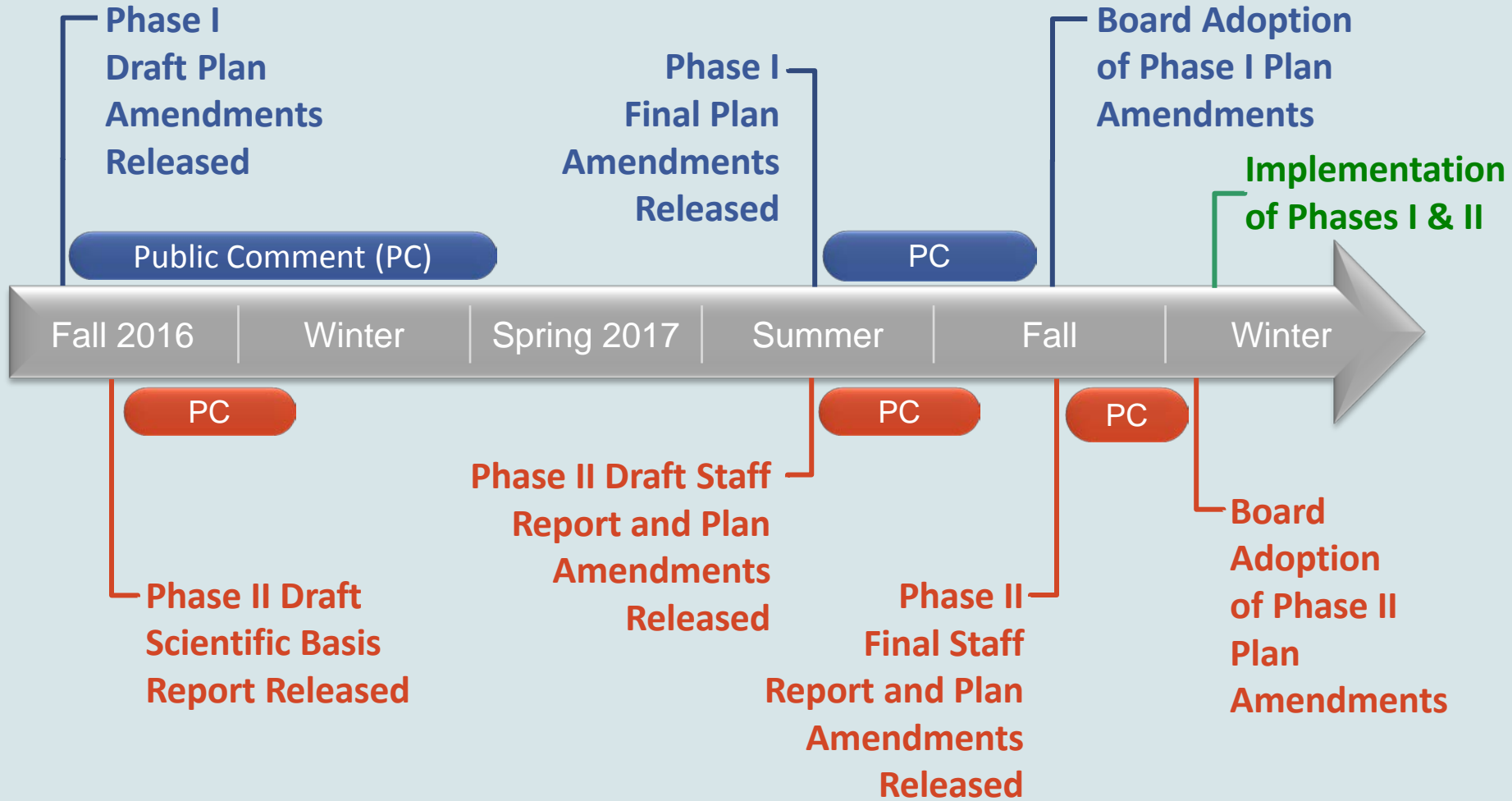
Update of the Bay-Delta Plan

- Common components of the Phase I and II updates:
 - Adaptive management with account of water for environmental purposes based on percent of unimpaired flows;
 - Integration with non-flow measures;
 - Encouragement of settlements; and
 - Balancing with competing uses of water

Why Focus on Flow?

- Scientific studies show that flow is major factor in survival of fish and aquatic organisms
- **Many benefits of flow:** improved growth and survival of native aquatic species by improving migration, water temperatures and other habitat conditions
- **Flow affects:** risk of disease, risk of predation, reproductive success, growth, smoltification, migration, feeding behavior, and other ecological factors
- Board has primary authority over flow; the Board will assist other agencies which have authority to require non-flow measures

Bay-Delta Plan Update Timeline



More information at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/

Phase I: Update of San Joaquin River flow and Southern Delta Salinity Requirements

