

Report of DSC Committee on Interim Plan – Early Actions

Requested Action: Approve the Committee recommendations on five proposed early actions.

Background

Section 85084 of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 requires that the Council develop an Interim Plan that includes recommendations for early actions, projects, and programs. The Council adopted the Interim Plan at its Aug. 27, 2010 meeting. The Interim Plan provides a process for a responsible agency or proponent with an action, project or program to be considered by the Council before the Delta Plan is adopted. The adoption of the Interim Plan and implementation of this process is intended to satisfy the requirement of Section 85084.

At its August 2010 meeting the Council established a two-member Early Actions Committee to review early actions and make recommendations to the full Council (Water Code §85210(k)). The committee is made up of Council Chair Phil Isenberg and Council Vice Chair Randy Fiorini, with Council Member Felicia Marcus as an alternate. The committee is considering early actions in September, October, and November 2010, and thereafter at the Council's discretion. Proponents of potential early actions have been asked to submit a completed application form (Appendix B of the Interim Plan) to provide the information for staff review and consideration by the Council. Priority for consideration is given to early actions identified in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 and in Water Code sections 85080 through 85087 and listed in Table 4-1 of the Interim Plan.

The first committee meeting was held on September 14 in Sacramento. Four applications for proposed early actions were submitted for consideration, in addition to the early actions identified in the statute. The committee reviewed all the actions listed in Table 4-1, including three applications by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and an application submitted by Water4Fish,

The Committee made the following recommendations on five early actions:

1. Department of Water Resources Two – Gates Project

- The Council should:
 - facilitate a meeting between the active parties of the Two-Gates project to discuss the project goals and the approach to achieving those goals

- request the State Water Contractors provide a letter verifying the cost of the Two-Gates project and verifying the State Water Contractor's willingness to pay for the project
 - request the Department of Fish and Game provide an estimate of the cost of repairing the boat scheduled to conduct fish studies this winter
 - request the Department of Fish and Game describe impacts to the Two-Gates project caused by the current hiring freeze
 - request the US Bureau of Reclamation clarify its position on the Two-Gates project, their intention to proceed with the project, and provide the current project schedule
2. **SWRCB - Develop Flow Criteria for the Delta Ecosystem**
 - Include in Interim Plan
 3. **SWRCB - Delta Watershed Diversion Data Collection and Reporting**
 - Include in Interim Plan
 4. **SWRCB - Instream Flow Studies Schedule and Costs to Legislature**
 - Include in Interim Plan
 5. **Water4Fish - Delta Cross Channel Gates**
 - Take no action. The applicant has withdrawn the application so that they may address the Committee's concerns and re-submit the application at a later date.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1 – Committee Recommendation Forms
Attachment 2 – Early Action Applications and Staff Recommendation Forms
Attachment 3 – Specific Early Actions Identified in SBX7 1

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