



INFORMATION ITEM

Delta Watermaster Update

Summary

Delta Watermaster Jay Ziegler will report on his office's activities related to Delta Plan implementation.

Background

The Office of the Delta Watermaster was created by the Delta Reform Act of 2009 (Water Code §85230). The Delta Watermaster is appointed to a four-year term by the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) in consultation with the Delta Stewardship Council (Council). The Delta Watermaster regularly reports to the Water Board and the Council (Water Code §85230(d)).

The Delta Watermaster is responsible for overseeing the administration of water rights and, when necessary, taking enforcement action related to water diversions in the Delta. The Delta Watermaster also confers with and assists the Water Board and the Council as they carry out legislative mandates to enhance the Delta ecosystem and improve statewide water supply reliability.

Today's Presentation

Delta Watermaster Jay Ziegler will present on the launch and implementation of the California Water Accounting, Tracking and Reporting System (CalWATRS), which is officially open for Water Year 2025 reporting. This new water reporting system is the product of multiple years of work through the Water Board's Updating Water Rights Data for California project and aims to create a streamlined, efficient, and transparent platform for water rights holders and decision-makers. All water rights holders must submit annual water use reports to this new system on January 31, 2026. The watermaster will also provide updates on the Delta Measurement Experimental Consortium (DMEC), created in response to the passage of Senate Bill 88, which requires greater transparency in water usage reporting by water rights holders and developing diversion measuring and reporting protocols. The DMEC is

a collaborative effort that advances science-based measurements of Delta diversions and water usage that can help guide implementation of tools such as CalWATRS. Greater collaboration supports a better understanding of real-time water use in the Delta, which impacts water management decisions.

The Watermaster will also present on the joint California Department of Water Resources and United States Bureau of Reclamation Delta Monitoring network that tracks flows, water quality, and sediment in the Delta. Additionally, there will be a status update on the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan (Bay-Delta Plan) before the State Water Resources Control Board. This plan is required by state law to reasonably protect beneficial uses of water and is required to be updated periodically. The Watermaster will discuss projects relevant to the Delta, including the South Delta Dredging Project, which aims to remove excess silt buildup in Delta channels, and California Forever, a proposed new city located in Solano County near the Delta.

Fiscal Information

Not applicable.

List of Attachments

Not applicable.

Contact

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