State Water Board's Regulatory History and Bay-Delta Phase 2 Process

DSP's Delta Outflows and Related Stressors Workshop

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February 10, 2014

Mission

- State Water Resources Control Board's mission:

  to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.

- The Bay-Delta

  Statewide water quality and water resource allocation issues converge

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Authorities

- Dual authority for water allocation and water quality protection to provide comprehensive protection of California's waters
- Protect and enforce many water uses including needs of industry, agriculture, municipal districts, environment, and recreation
  - More specifically referred to as beneficial uses which include: irrigation, domestic supply, power generation, spawning habitat, wildlife habitat, etc.
- Balancing role

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Water Quality Control Planning

- Water Quality Control Plans
- The Bay-Delta Plan or the…
  - Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary
- Beneficial uses, objectives, program of implementation, and monitoring
- Updated periodically
- Not self-implementing

History

- 1960s: Water rights for CVP and SWP with reservation of jurisdiction to develop water quality requirements
- 1971: D-1379 – Monitoring and interim water quality standards to be met by CVP and SWP
- 1978: Delta Plan and D-1485 – Updated water quality standards for the Delta and established water right requirements
- 1991: Bay-Delta Plan for Salinity

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History Continued

- 1992: Draft D-1630 – Not adopted
- 1995: Bay-Delta Plan – Basis for current Bay-Delta Plan objectives
- 2000: D-1641 – Implements 1995 Bay-Delta Plan
- 2006: Bay-Delta Plan – Updates 1995 Bay-Delta Plan identifies emerging issues
- 2010: Delta Flow Criteria Report

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Delta Flow Criteria Report Conclusions

- Flow and physical habitat interact in many ways, but are not interchangeable. Current flows are insufficient to protect public trust resources.
- Inflows should generally be provided from tributaries to the Delta watershed in proportion to their contribution to unimpaired flow unless otherwise indicated.
  - 75% Unimpaired Delta Outflow, Jan-Jun
  - 75% Unimpaired Sacramento River inflow, Nov-Jun
  - 60% Unimpaired San Joaquin River Inflow, Feb-Jun
- A strong science program and a flexible management regime are critical to improving flow criteria.

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Bay-Delta Activities

- Phase 1: San Joaquin River flows and southern Delta salinity objectives and program of implementation
- Phase 2: Comprehensive update of the rest of the Bay-Delta Plan
- Phase 3: Implement the Bay-Delta Plan through water rights
- Phase 4: Develop and implement flow objective for high priority Delta tributaries

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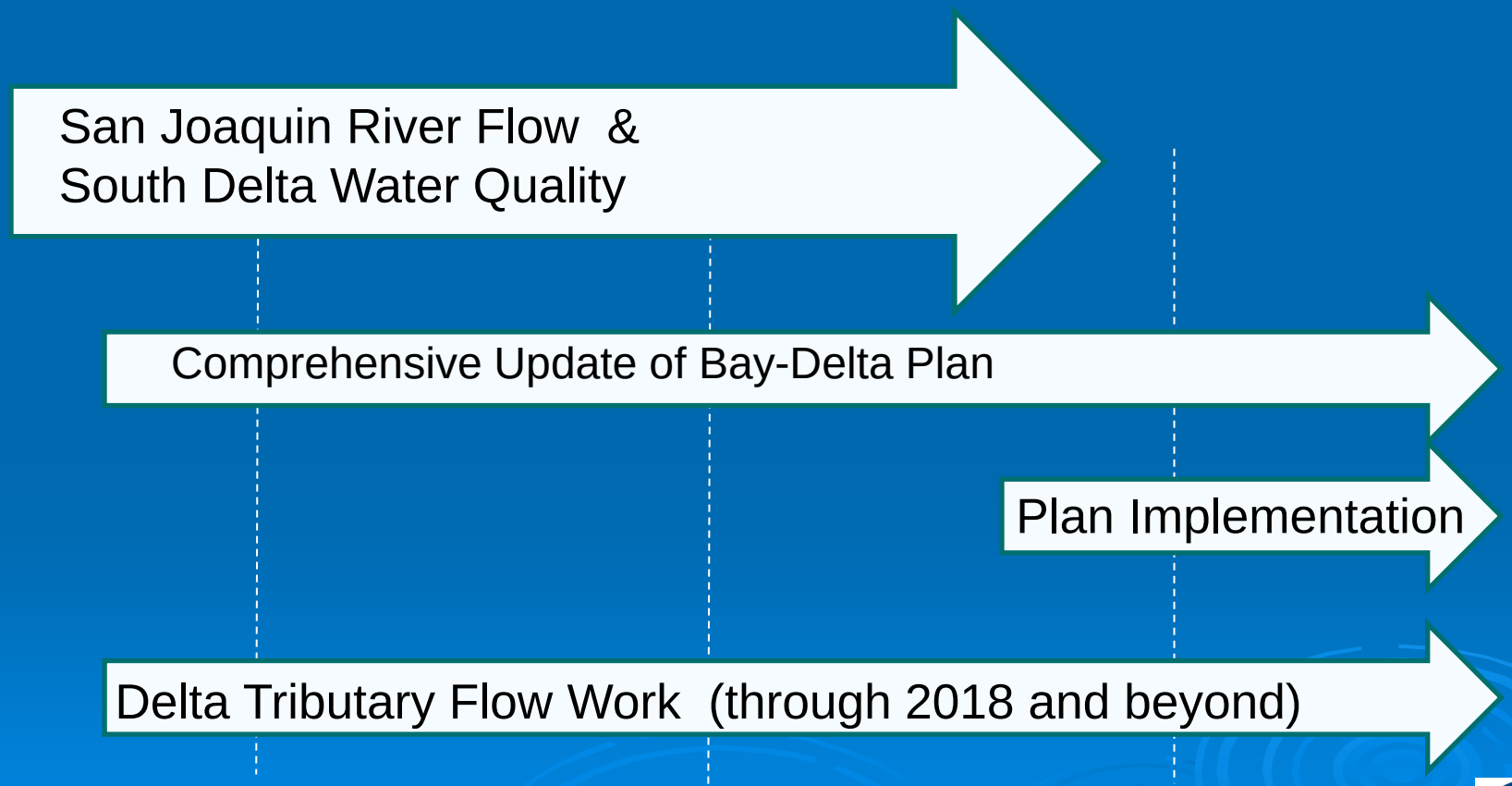
Bay-Delta Processes Timeline



Phase 2: Comprehensive Update Focused on Fish and Wildlife

- “Protect” San Joaquin River flows through Delta
- Delta outflow
- Sacramento River flow
- Exports/imports
- Delta Cross Channel Gate closures
- Suisun Marsh
- Reverse flows on Old/Middle River
- Floodplain habitat
- Monitoring and special studies program
- Program of implementation

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Phase 2: Status and Next Steps

- Delta Science Program workshops to address areas of uncertainty:
  - Delta Outflow and Related Stressors
    - Feb 10-11, 2014
  - In-Delta Flows and Related Stressors
    - April 2014
- Scientific Basis Report
  - Release Report / Hold Workshop
    - 3rd Quarter 2014 / 4th Quarter 2014

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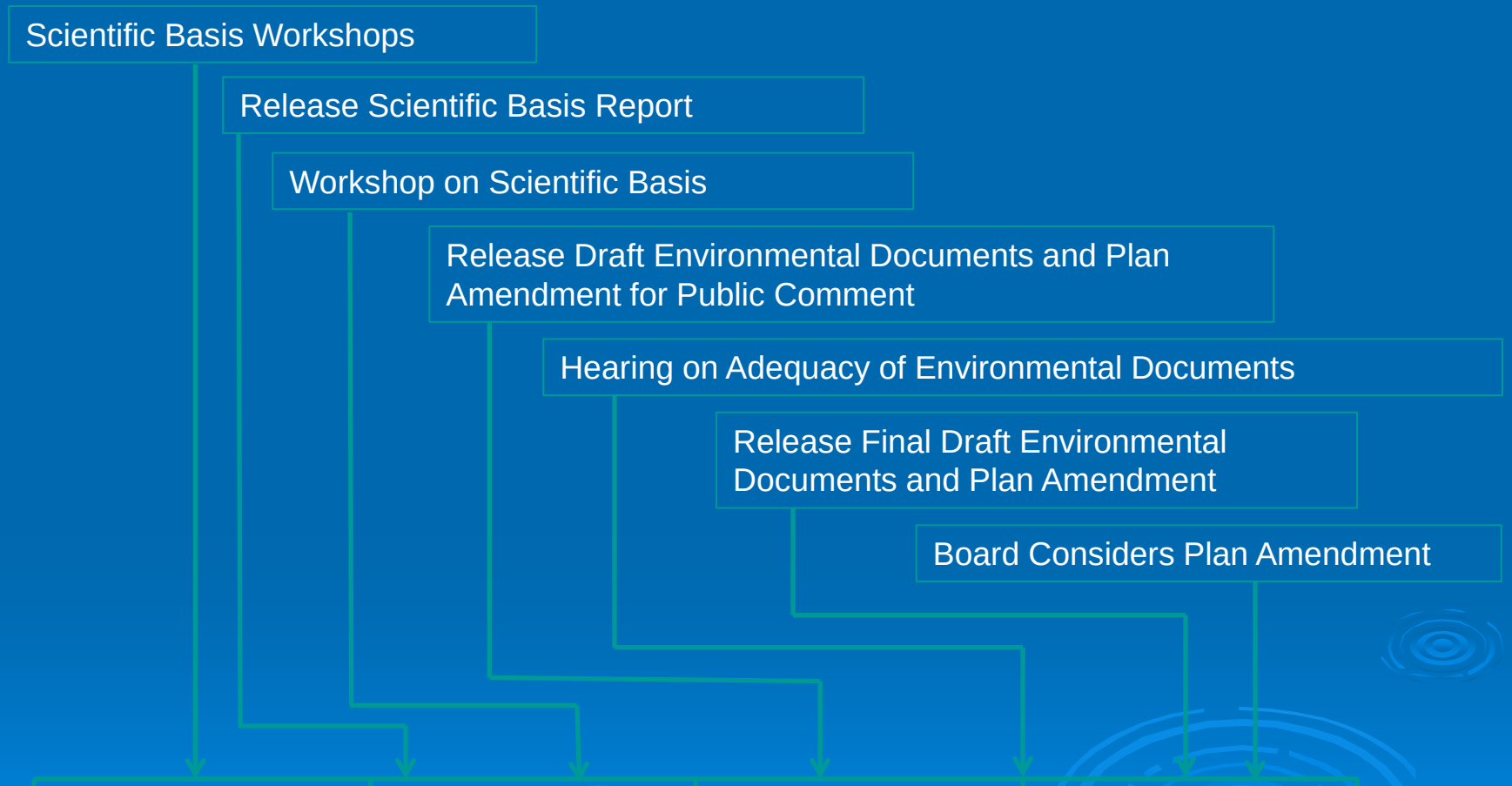
State Water Board Timeline for the Phase 2 Update of the Bay-Delta Plan