

Report from the State Water Resources Control Board's Delta Watermaster on California's Area of Origin Water Laws

Summary: Craig M. Wilson, Delta Watermaster will present a report on California's Area of Origin water laws.

Background

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), as the State's principal water resources regulatory agency, has statutory authority to help implement and enforce many types of regulatory policies and recommendations that will complement the Delta Plan's policies and recommendations. California Water Code Section 85320 (d) directs the State's Delta Watermaster to submit regular reports to the State Water Board and to the Council on water issues.

Craig Wilson, the Delta Watermaster, presented a report to the State Water Board on October 8, 2013 titled "California's Area of Origin Laws." According to Mr. Wilson, "These laws have long been in the background of the State's major water issues. They were enacted 50-80 years ago, are written very generally, and have not been subject to a lot of interpretation by the courts. However, they remain a potential linchpin to resolving many of the most vexing water disputes affecting the Delta. For that reason alone, they are worthy of attention.

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief description of the Area of Origin Laws, discuss recent court cases that have discussed them, and to summarize the major principles embodied in the laws.

Mr. Wilson will brief the Council on this report and engage in a discussion with Council members about how it may apply to implementation of the Delta Plan.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: Area of Origin Laws Report

Contact

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