



## **INFORMATION ITEM**

### Delta Watermaster Update

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**Summary:** Delta Watermaster Michael Patrick George will report on his office's activities related to the Delta Plan, including an update on drought preparedness and his office's work in the southern Delta.

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#### **BACKGROUND**

The Office of the Delta Watermaster was created as part of the Delta Reform Act of 2009. The Watermaster is an independent officer of the State, appointed to a four-year term by the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board), and reports jointly to the Water Board and the Delta Stewardship Council (Council).

As Watermaster, Mr. George is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day administration of water rights and, when necessary, taking enforcement action related to water diversions in the Delta. The 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**

At today's meeting, the Council will learn about progress made on two of the Watermaster's initiatives.

First, Mr. George will discuss his office's work to prepare for drought, including an update on the results of a recent Water Board workshop and on-going initiatives to improve Delta water-use data.

Mr. George will also discuss the southern Delta as it relates to the Water Quality Control Plan for the lower San Joaquin River and southern Delta (Plan). Adopted by the Water Board in December 2018 but not yet fully implemented, the Plan requires that the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project develop a comprehensive Operations Plan to mitigate those Projects' impact on southern Delta salinity. The Watermaster will describe how his office and Water Board staff are working with the Export Projects and various stakeholders to develop the Plan and detail its potential to improve southern Delta conditions.

#### **FISCAL INFORMATION**

Not applicable.

**LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

None

**CONTACT**

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