



# State Water Resources Control Board

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**Linda S. Adams**  
*Secretary for  
Environmental Protection*

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**Arnold Schwarzenegger**  
*Governor*

**August 11, 2008**

Tim O'Laughlin  
O'Laughlin & Paris, LLP  
P.O. Box 9259  
Chico, CA 95927-9259

Dear Mr. O'Laughlin:

**SAN JOAQUIN RIVER FLOW WORKSHOP – SEPTEMBER 17, 2008**

Thank you for your letter to Chairperson Tam Doduc regarding the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) workshop on San Joaquin River flows, which is scheduled for September 17, 2008. On behalf of the San Joaquin River Group Authority (SJRGA), you seek information concerning the conduct of the workshop. State Water Board Chairperson Tam Doduc has asked me to respond to your July 10, 2008 letter.

The State Water Board intends to hold several workshops to receive information regarding the San Joaquin River flow objectives for fish and wildlife beneficial uses in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta). The principal purpose of the September 17 workshop is to provide an overview of issues relating to the San Joaquin River flow objectives, primarily focusing on updates regarding the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) San Joaquin River salmon escapement model and the Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan (VAMP). There will also be a brief update on southern Delta salinity issues. The State Water Board may use the information obtained in this workshop to define and more narrowly focus the scope of subsequent workshops on specific issues relating to the San Joaquin River flow objectives.

You object to the State Water Board receiving any evidence or information at the workshop regarding DFG's salmon escapement model, in part, because DFG has not yet released the model to the public. I appreciate your concern that the public should have sufficient time to examine the model prior to the State Water Board's consideration of the model in a water quality proceeding. At the September 17 workshop, the State Water Board will seek information regarding an update or an overview of the model, if available, and will not consider the merits of the model at that time. Another workshop may be scheduled in Winter 2008 to more fully consider the model once staff and the public has had an opportunity to review it. The notice for the September 17 workshop will be arriving via first class mail in a short while, if you have not already received it. As explained herein and in the notice, the workshop will focus primarily on DFG's model and VAMP.

Your letter identifies a number of issues on which the SJRGA intends to submit information. We would appreciate your cooperation in submitting information relevant to the matters identified in the workshop notice. Additionally, the workshop will be conducted as an informational workshop. It will not be conducted as an adjudicative proceeding under California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants, although the State Water Board members and staff may ask clarifying questions.

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***California Environmental Protection Agency***



If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Chris Carr, Environmental Scientist, at (916) 341-5305 or [CCarr@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:CCarr@waterboards.ca.gov) or Erin K.L. Mahaney, Senior Staff Counsel, at (916) 341-5187 or [emahaney@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:emahaney@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*ORIGINAL SIGNED BY*

Victoria A. Whitney, Chief  
Division of Water Rights

cc: Ms. Tam M. Doduc  
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