

D E L T A W E T L A N D S P R O J E C T



January 18, 2005

Debbie Irvin, Clerk of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

**Subject: Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan
 Triennial Review, Topic #6**

Dear Ms. Irvin:

Delta Wetlands Properties (Delta Wetlands), which holds water rights permits for the in-Delta storage project commonly referred to as the Delta Wetlands Project, appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regarding the triennial review of the 1995 Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan (1995 WQCP). Our input concerns Periodic Review Workshop Topic #6, Export Limits and the manner in which in-Delta storage releases are accounted for by the export/inflow (E/I) ratio of the 1995 WQCP.

Delta Wetlands requests that the SWRCB address the application of the E/I ratio to in-Delta storage. In-Delta storage releases are not currently included in the Delta inflow calculations of the E/I ratio because they were never contemplated during preparation of the 1995 WQCP. The E/I ratio issue was raised during the Delta Wetlands water rights hearing before the SWRCB but was not addressed at that time because the 1995 WQCP could not be considered (or modified) in the context of a water rights hearing. With the water resources planning underway by CALFED and the Bay-Delta Authority, in-Delta storage is likely to represent a significant new source of inflow to the Delta and the E/I ratio should incorporate in-Delta storage into the Delta hydrology accounting standards.

For your convenience we have attached a copy of the current E/I ratio and export limits contained in the 1995 WQCP (see Attachment 1). We have also attached our suggested revisions to the Delta inflow calculations that simply entails adding in-Delta storage releases as a component of Delta inflow in the E/I ratio equation (see Attachment 2).

The E/I ratio is important to all water storage projects because Delta exports at Banks and Tracy are often controlled by this operating constraint. The E/I ratio was established to protect the habitat of estuarine-dependent species by reducing entrainment at the major export pumps in the

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