

**POLICY STATEMENT OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**

Hearing on Delta Salinity Draft Cease and Desist Order

October 24, 2005

The Northern California Water Association (NCWA) submits the following policy statement on the Delta Salinity Draft Cease and Desist Order and Water Quality Response Plan.

Northern California is a unique mosaic of farm lands, refuges and managed wetlands for waterfowl habitat, spawning grounds for numerous salmon and steelhead trout, and cities and rural communities. NCWA's members provide water for all of these various purposes throughout the Sacramento River Basin, from the crest of the Sierra Nevada to the Coast Range. NCWA's members also include the Counties and other local governments throughout the region. A central part of NCWA's mission is to preserve Northern California's water resources for the long-term viability of the region's economic prosperity and environmental well-being. Although it does not appear that this proceeding will affect water right holders and suppliers on the Sacramento River and its tributaries, NCWA and its members are following the proceeding closely.

As the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) is aware, water right holders in the Sacramento Valley, partnering with the federal and state agencies and export water users, developed and are now implementing the Sacramento Valley Water Management Agreement (SVWMA) to help meet the objectives in the 1995 Water Quality Control Plan (1995 Plan). The SVWMA is a unique and historic North-South partnership to actively manage water supplies to ensure that water supply needs in the Sacramento River basin are met while helping to provide water supplies for other parts of the state. Because of the Board's leadership, it dismissed Phase 8 of the Bay-Delta water rights proceedings to facilitate the development of this unique partnership's benefits for all Californians.

We support similar efforts on the San Joaquin River, as long as any Board action in this proceeding does not impact the SVWMA. Specifically, NCWA requests that the any resulting Board order ensures that (1) the parties to the San Joaquin River Agreement, the United States Bureau of Reclamation (“USBR”), and/or the California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) bear the entire responsibility for meeting the San Joaquin River basin’s share of the Delta outflow objectives established by the 1995 Plan; and (2) implementation of any agreement or the Water Quality Response Plan does not require increased river flow objectives for the Sacramento River and its tributaries, and or any increased allocation of the San Joaquin River water rights holders’ responsibility for implementing the 1995 Plan’s objectives for the Bay-Delta to water right holders in the Sacramento River Basin.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this policy statement. Please call David Guy if you have any questions or would like to discuss this further.