

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS  
APRIL 6, 2021**

**ITEM 6**

**SUBJECT**

UPDATE ON THE FRESNO RIVER STATUTORY ADJUDICATION

**DISCUSSION**

On October 18, 2018, the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board or Board) Division of Water Rights (Division) received a petition from Madera Irrigation District (District) seeking to initiate a statutory adjudication of the water rights to the Fresno River and its tributaries (Petition). At its September 17, 2019 Board Meeting, the Board adopted [Resolution No. 2019-0049](#), postponing action on the petition and giving the District and riparian landowners (parties, collectively) additional time to negotiate a settlement and management framework for the lower Fresno River that would resolve existing and future conflicts over the diversion and use of water. Board Resolution 2019-0049 outlined eight requirements that any management framework would need to meet in order to address the issues raised in the Petition. Resolution 2019-0049 also identified seven milestones the Board would use to assess progress towards a successful negotiated settlement. While parties made progress in some areas, they did not meet most of the required elements described in Board Resolution 2019-0049 and were unable to agree on water right quantities, water accounting, or administration matters that would address the issues raised in the Petition.

On October 20, 2020, the Board adopted [Resolution No. 2020-0040](#) granting the Petition and directing staff to make arrangements to proceed with the determination of the rights of the various claimants to the water of the Fresno River stream system. At the October 20, 2020 Board Meeting, the Board also directed staff to provide an update regarding potential interim solutions to conflicts in the Fresno River Basin while the statutory adjudication is ongoing, which could take several years.

This information item will include a status update on the adjudication process and provide a summary of potential interim solutions to conflicts in the Fresno River watershed while the adjudication is ongoing. Staff are not currently proposing any interim actions at this time.

**POLICY ISSUE**

None. This is an informational item.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None. This is an informational item.

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None. This is an informational item.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

None. This is an informational item and no decisions will be made.