

AGENDA ITEM: 10

SUBJECT:

Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (Delta MERP)

BOARD ACTION:

Information item

SUMMARY:

The Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (MERP) is a collaborative effort of the Central Valley Water Board, the California Department of Water Resources, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and the California Department of Public Health. The goal of MERP is to protect public health by reducing methylmercury exposure risk from consuming Delta fish. MERP is supported by funds from the Cleanup and Abatement Account and dischargers subject to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Mercury Control Program. The six-year project term began in August 2013, and program funding will end in June 2020. Notable program accomplishments include the following: implementing eight small grants and community projects; translating fish consumption advisory materials into nine different languages; developing and testing low-literacy informational program materials; posting low-literacy fish consumption advisory signs at over 100 sites in the Delta; conducting tribal outreach; collaborating with state, municipal, and local entities to protect public health; and coordinating an independent sign-posting effectiveness evaluation. MERP implementation efforts, in coordination with community-based organizations, reached members of Delta communities in five different counties.

This informational item will provide an overview of these accomplishments, identify challenges encountered, and discuss continued public outreach and education needs, particularly as they apply to new beneficial use designations relating to California Native American tribes and subsistence fishing established by the State Water Board (State Water Board Resolution 2017-0027).

RECOMMENDATION:

Not applicable

REVIEWS:

Management Review:	Meredith Howard
Legal Review:	Bayley Toft-Dupuy
Date:	20 February 2020
Board Meeting Street Address:	11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
Board Meeting City, State, Zip:	Rancho Cordova, CA 95670