
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF STAFF WORKSHOP ON POTENTIAL CHANGES TO THE WATER UNAVAILABILITY METHODOLOGY FOR THE DELTA WATERSHED

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff will hold a technical workshop to describe and receive public input on potential changes to the methodology for determining water unavailability in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) watershed ([Water Unavailability Methodology](#) or methodology). Currently, the methodology is focused on evaluating water unavailability during the dry season, but modifications to the methodology are being considered to address water unavailability during the wet season.

Wednesday, October 20, 2021
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Remote Participation Only

During the workshop, staff will seek public input on the following topics related to determining water unavailability in the Delta watershed during the wet season, including:

1. How to most effectively suspend curtailments in response to actual and projected precipitation and runoff events;
2. Return flow factors and methods for the wet season, including whether the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and possibly other water users may retain residual control, dominion, or right to further use of return flows;
3. Assessments of water unavailability in the Legal Delta during the wet season, including freshwater residence time and related issues described in [Appendix D](#) of the Water Unavailability Methodology Report; and
4. Possible incorporation of water supply/demand data submitted by water right holders and claimants larger than 5,000 acre-feet as part of enhanced reporting under the August 20, 2021 initial orders.

PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

If you wish to view the workshop only, a webcast will be available at <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/> (closed captioning available). This option should be used

for viewing the workshop UNLESS you intend to provide oral comments or ask clarifying questions during the workshop.

If you wish to make oral comments or ask clarifying questions during the workshop, you must fill out a virtual speaker card using the [online form](#) provided for this workshop. Workshop participants should submit their online forms by **noon on October 15, 2021**. Staff will respond to your form with the information needed to join the workshop via the Zoom online platform. If you do not submit an online form, you may not be provided access to speak during the workshop and may be limited to viewing the webcast only. Comments should be technical in nature and limited to 5 minutes per speaker unless you request to make a presentation. Presentations will be limited to no more than 15 minutes. If there are a large number of commenters, speakers may be asked to shorten their comments to accommodate all speakers.

If you wish to make a PowerPoint presentation at the workshop, please indicate so on the online form. PowerPoint presentations are required to be submitted to Bay-Delta@waterboards.ca.gov no later than **noon on October 18, 2021**. Presentations must be in **PowerPoint format and should not include any transitions or external media sources**. Please be aware that State Water Board staff will be projecting and advancing PowerPoint slides during presentations. Speakers are encouraged to organize themselves as panels and should indicate this, if applicable, on their online form. Only one online form should be submitted for each panel presentation, clearly identifying the number and names of all panelists.

This workshop will be recorded, and the recording will be posted on the [Delta Drought webpage](#). If you have any questions regarding how to participate in the workshop, please send an email to Bay-Delta@waterboards.ca.gov.

BACKGROUND

On August 3, 2021, the State Water Board adopted [Resolution No. 2021-0028](#) for emergency curtailment and reporting in the Delta watershed. Among other things, the resolution directs State Water Board staff to publicly notice and hold a workshop when substantial changes to the Water Unavailability Methodology are being implemented or considered. The resolution also directs staff to engage with stakeholders by December 31, 2021, to identify and explore other possible approaches to address water unavailability in the Delta watershed. The workshop scheduled for October 20, 2021, is being held to discuss potential changes to the methodology, and a separate workshop will be held to discuss other possible approaches to address water unavailability. A separate notice will be provided in advance of an anticipated early December 2021 workshop to explore alternative approaches.

On September 27, 2021, the State Water Board released updated resources related to the methodology, including an updated summary report, appendices, and spreadsheet, that discuss the issues that are the subject of the October 20 workshop. To review the methodology resources, visit the [Water Unavailability Methodology webpage](#).

RESOURCES

For more information regarding drought in the Delta watershed, visit the [Delta Drought webpage](#). For information on other drought related activities, please visit the State Water Board's [Drought webpage](#).

CONTACT

Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact staff at Bay-Delta@waterboards.ca.gov prior to the workshop. If you have any questions regarding this notice or related efforts, you may send an email to Bay-Delta@waterboards.ca.gov or call the Delta Drought phone line at (916) 319-0960.