

Common Responses

This chapter provides common responses to comments received on the Staff Report and revised draft Bay-Delta Plan. The State Water Board prepared common responses to provide comprehensive responses to frequently raised topics, themes, or issues, and to avoid repetition. If one or more common responses apply to an individual comment, the response to that comment refers the commenter to the relevant common response(s). Common response topics and reference numbers were organized to generally correspond to the structure of the Staff Report (with the exception of Common Responses 1.1 through 2.1). Table 2-1 summarizes the common response numbers, titles, and topics covered.

Table 2-1. Summary of Common Responses

Common Response Number	Common Response Title	Topics Covered
1.1	General Comments	• Approach to responses to comments • Adequacy of the public process • Scope of the Staff Report and the flexibility of the Bay-Delta Plan • General support and opposition for the Plan amendments, voluntary agreements (VAs), and other flow alternatives • Consistency with other laws, policies, and agreements
1.2	Water Quality Control Planning Process	• State Water Board authorities • Interaction of the State Water Board's efforts to update and implement the Bay-Delta Plan with other regulatory requirements, including the 2018 Bay-Delta Plan update for the Lower San Joaquin River and Southern Delta (LSJR/SD)
1.3	Revised Proposed Plan Amendments	• Project description • Water quality objectives for fish and wildlife uses • Regulatory pathway • VA pathway • Implementation methodology • Interior Delta flows provisions • General provisions • Monitoring and evaluation • State Water Board oversight • Interaction with other projects and regulatory processes
1.5	Trinity River	• How the Bay-Delta Plan relates to the Trinity River • Modeling • Federal laws and regulatory requirements that apply to the Trinity River • State laws and regulatory requirements that apply to the Trinity River, including Water Right Order 90-5

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2.1	Presentation of Data and Results in the Staff Report and Responses to Comments	• Protection of the Trinity River generally • Types of data presented in the Staff Report • Summary statistics • Distribution-based presentations • Water year types and long-term hydrologic variability
3.1	Fish Protection	• Use of best available science • Adequacy of modeling to support the benefit analyses • Fish entrainment in the Delta
4.1	Harmful Algal Blooms	• Background on harmful algal blooms (HABs) in the Delta • Instream flows and HABs • State Water Board commitments to address HABs in the Delta • Water quality standards for cyanotoxins • Nutrient discharge and HABs • HABs effects on air quality • Economically disadvantaged communities and HABs • California Native American Tribes and HABs
4.2	Drought and Climate Change	• Consideration of drought and climate change in analysis under CEQA and Porter-Cologne • Inclusion of climate change considerations into Sacramento Water Allocation Model (SacWAM) • Consideration of climate change in the environmental impact conclusions • Analysis of multi-year droughts and associated compounding impacts • Development of drought response measures
6.1	Sacramento Water Allocation Model and Changes in Hydrology and Water Supply	• Purpose of modeling, the appropriate use of models, and the scale of model results in the Staff Report • Reasonableness of SacWAM assumptions and the use of best available information to develop model logic • Reservoir operations constraints and carryover storage guidelines in SacWAM • Questions or comments regarding the data or methods of analysis used to determine the effects associated with the proposed project and alternatives • Comments that the effects would be more severe than modeled or otherwise disputing the analyses' conclusions
6.2	Baseline and No Project Alternative	• Overview and project baseline • Federal and State Endangered Species Act requirements • Points of comparison for the VA analyses • Vernalis boundary condition • Temporary urgency change petitions • No Project Alternative • Trinity River

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6.3	Water Supply and Other Water Management Actions	• Overview and adequacy of the water supply impact analyses • Comments on water supply impacts • Alternative water supplies • Other water management actions
7.1	General CEQA and Approach to the Analysis	• General CEQA overview • Adequacy of the project description • Scope and level of detail • Impact analysis • Mitigation measures
7.4	Agricultural Resources	• Statewide Agricultural Protection Model (SWAP) baseline and assumptions about baseline cropping patterns • Level and scope of the SWAP analysis • SWAP model assumptions about groundwater pumping • SWAP model assumptions about deficit irrigation • SWAP modeling for critically dry water years and water year 1977, which is intended to represent the last year of a multi-year drought • Sacramento/Delta surface water supply for rice straw decomposition • Fallowing and agricultural land conversion
7.6.2	Aquatic Biological Resources and Cold Water Habitat	• Cold water habitat as part of the project • Integration with existing temperature-related requirements • Scope of the water temperature analysis • Implementation of the cold water habitat objective • Water temperature and fish evaluation • Development and refinement of carryover storage target ranges • Assessment of upper watershed effects • Sensitivity of the American River temperature model to Folsom Reservoir temperature targets
7.8	Energy and Hydropower	• Local effects • Effects on peaking generation at hydropower facilities • Effects on reliability of the California electrical grid • Effects during droughts and electrical emergencies • Importance of hydropower generation to the future of California's electrical grid • Energy to replace reductions in Sacramento/Delta surface water supplies
7.10	Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Mitigation	• Quantification and analysis of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from reduced hydropower generation • Mitigation of GHG emissions from changes in groundwater pumping
7.12.2	Groundwater and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act	• Groundwater overdraft and subsidence • Groundwater impact analysis • Groundwater mitigation measures • Groundwater substitution transfers

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		• Groundwater recharge • Groundwater-surface water interaction • Groundwater quality • Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) considerations
7.20	Utilities and Service Systems	• Environmental analysis and changes in water supply • Availability of municipal water and alternative water supplies • Urban water conservation
7.23	Cumulative Impact Analysis	• Scope and adequacy of the cumulative impact analysis • Consideration and analysis of the 2018 LSJR/SD update to the Bay-Delta Plan • Consideration and analysis of the Delta Conveyance Project and Sites Reservoir Project • Consideration and analysis of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects • Scope and adequacy of mitigation measures
7.24	Alternatives Analysis	• Adequacy of alternatives analysis • Description and comparison of alternatives • Ability of alternatives to meet purposes and goals of the project • Range of reasonable alternatives • Comments on stand-alone and modular alternatives • Commenter proposals • Environmentally superior alternative
8.1	Economic Analysis and Other Considerations	• Overview and adequacy of the economic analyses • Agricultural economic effects and the SWAP model • Regional economic effects and the IMPLAN model • Municipal water supply economic effects • Potential sources of funding for municipal water conservation and alternative water supplies • Water transfers • Economic effects from reduced revenue from hydropower production and water sales • Changes in hydropower revenues
10.1	Economically Disadvantaged Communities	• Existing environmental conditions and CEQA analysis • Benefits of increased flows and disadvantaged communities (DACs) • Water provider comments and DACs • Small drinking water systems in the Delta • State Water Board Racial Equity Resolution and Racial Equity Action Plan • Comments on the VAs

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11.1	Tribal Engagement and Tribal Beneficial Uses	• Tribal outreach and engagement • Traditional Ecological Knowledge/tribal knowledge • Tribal outreach and engagement provisions of the revised proposed Plan amendments • Tribal Beneficial Uses • Tribal reserved water rights • CEQA and Assembly Bill 52 • Tribal comments on the VAs