

News Advisory

State Water Resources Control Board Delays Final Decision on Updated Flow Objectives for the San Joaquin River

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SACRAMENTO – After considering a <u>request</u> received yesterday from Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. and Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, the State Water Resources Control Board today voted to postpone further consideration of updated flow requirements for the Lower San Joaquin River until Dec. 11 in order to allow voluntary agreement talks to yield results.

The short continuance follows testimony today by the Department of Water Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and water districts about progress made on settlement discussions. In their Nov. 6 letter, Governor Brown and Lieutenant Governor Newsom pledged to "actively and meaningfully engage to bring this vital matter to a successful closure."

The Board has repeatedly emphasized that voluntary agreements can provide a faster, more durable solution to reasonably protect beneficial uses in the <u>Lower San Joaquin River and its tributaries</u>, while also recognizing the necessity of taking timely action.

The State Water Board's primary role and authority under state law is to balance competing beneficial uses of water including agriculture, municipal use, recreation, fish and wildlife and more.

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