

## **Statement from the State Water Resources Control Board**

(May 24, 2022)

The State Water Board just received the petition and will need to evaluate it carefully before responding. Updating the Bay-Delta Plan is one of the board's highest priorities. The board completed a significant update in 2018 for the Lower San Joaquin River tributaries and anticipates completing updates for the Sacramento River and Delta in the next two years. This process will include an analysis of the Voluntary Agreements recently developed by the California Natural Resources Agency, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Water Resources, and public water agencies.

In the board's 2018 resolution adopting updates to the Bay-Delta Plan, the board provided opportunities for Voluntary Agreement parties to conclude their negotiations and present an agreement to the board for consideration as part of future Bay-Delta Plan updates. However, that negotiation process did not and does not supplant the robust public, technical, and legal processes the board has and will follow under the Water Code and the California Environmental Quality Act as part of the Bay-Delta Plan update process. The board will evaluate the Voluntary Agreements in conjunction with other alternatives for updating the Bay-Delta Plan.

Throughout the entire Bay-Delta Plan update process, the board will consider actions to reasonably protect all beneficial uses.