

COUNCIL OF CITIES



CITY OF DINUBA
CITY OF EXETER
CITY OF FARMERSVILLE
CITY OF LINDSAY

CITY OF PORTERVILLE
CITY OF TULARE
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CITY OF WOODLAKE

AGENDA

Wednesday, July 18, 2018 – 3:00 to 5:00pm
Hosted by City of Visalia
220 North Santa Fe Street - Administration Boardroom

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Self-Introductions**
3. ***No Items for Closed Session This Month***
4. **Public Comments**
5. **Presentation by Dominic Figueroa with Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018, Proposition 3 Campaign to discuss the water bond benefits to the Cities.**
6. **Approve Minutes from:
May 16, 2018**
7. **County Homelessness Response (J. Lollis)**
8. **Tulare County Economic Development Corporation Participation (J. Lollis)**
9. **Consider submitting comments to the State Water Resources Control Board on its recent water plan proposal. Discussion articles attached. (S. Nelsen)**
10. **Legislative Update**
11. **Future Meeting Date(s):
September 19, 2018
November 21, 2018**
12. **Good of the Order**
13. **Adjourn**

In Compliance with the American Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in meetings call (559) 713-4512 48-hours in advance of the meeting. For Hearing Impaired – Call (559) 713-4900 (TDD) 48-hours in advance of the scheduled meeting time to request signing services.

Any written materials relating to an item on this agenda submitted to the Council of Cities after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the office located at 220 N. Santa Fe St., Visalia, CA 93292, during normal business hours.

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Minutes

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 – 3:00 to 5:00pm
Hosted by City of Visalia
220 North Santa Fe Street - Administration Boardroom

Elected Officials Present: Mayor Paul Boyer, Farmersville; Councilmember Steve Nelsen, Visalia; Councilmember Jose Martinez, Woodlake; Mayor Pro-Tem Danny Salinas, Lindsay; and Councilmember Martha Flores, City of Porterville

City Staff Present: Patricia Hildreth, Porterville Admin Services Director; Randy Groom, Visalia City Manager; Devon Jones, Visalia Economic Development Director; Jennifer Gomez, Farmersville City Manager; Leslie Caviglia, Visalia Assistant City Manager; Bill Zigler, Lindsay City Manager, Willard Epps, Tulare Interim City Manager; Luis Patlan, Dinuba City Manager; and Gladys Ruiz, Visalia Sr. Admin Assistant

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Nelsen at 3:04pm.

2. Self-Introductions

3. *No Items for Closed Session This Month*

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5. Approve Minutes from: January 17, 2018

A motion was made by Mayor Paul Boyer and seconded by Councilmember Jose Martinez to approve the January 17, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion passed 5-0 (Dinuba, Exeter, and Tulare elected officials absent).

6. Commitment to TCEDC

Visalia City Manager Randy Groom asked the representatives of the cities that were present whether they will remain a member of TCEDC. Most were taking this item to their Council and were not sure at the moment. City of Tulare shared that they will not renew their membership with TCEDC. Visalia Economic Development Manager Devon Jones shared information on TCEC and that they are taking a leadership role on Opportunity Zones.

- 7. Mental Health Issues and Appropriate Services in our Communities**
 - a. Discussion of a possible joint meeting between Council of Cities and County Board Supervisors**

In light of the recent officer involved shooting in Tulare, Interim City Manager Willard Epps asked the cities what resources there are in each respective city for residents with mental health issues. Councilmember Flores also shared that City of Porterville has seen a rise in homeless issues. Dinuba City Manager Luis Patlan suggested that the Tulare County Police Chiefs should meet to discuss this matter.

- 8. Legislative Update:**
 - a. SB 1 Repeal**
 - b. Sales Tax State Legislation**
 - c. State Ballot Measure on Taxes and Fees**
 - d. Other Legislation**

Assistant City Manager Leslie Caviglia reviewed various legislative updates and distributed handouts on SB 1466, SCA 20, Prop 69, SB1, SB 5 and Tax Fairness, Transparency, and Accountability Act of 2018.

- 10. Future Meeting Date(s):**
July 18, 2018
September 19, 2018

- 11. Good of the Order**

- 12. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Steve Nelsen at 3:59pm.

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In Sacramento and in Los Banos, groups presented two very different views of a Trump administration plan to pump more river water farmers to the San Joaquin Valley.

By McClatchy

AGRICULTURE

California has a new plan for allocating its water, and it means less for farmers

BY DALE KASLER
dkasler@sacbee.com

July 06, 2018 01:22 PM
Updated July 09, 2018 07:42 AM

State regulators proposed sweeping changes in the allocation of California's water Friday, leaving more water in Northern California's major rivers to help ailing fish populations — and giving less to farming and human consumption.

By limiting water sent to cities and farms and keeping more for fish, the proposal by the State Water Resources Control Board's staff likely will ignite a round of lawsuits and political squabbles. Critics immediately pounced on the plan, saying it will take some of the nation's most fertile farmland out of production and harm the Central Valley economy.

But the state board said more water must be devoted to fish to prevent environmental disaster. Several major species of fish are nearing extinction, and increasing river flows will help them survive, the board said.

inRead invented by Teads

"We've simply taken too much water out of the system for the natural ecosystem to survive," said board Chairwoman Felicia Marcus in a conference call with reporters. She said the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the hub of the state's elaborate water-delivery network, "is on the verge of collapse."



The board, made up of five regulators appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown, plans to vote on the proposal in August.

The proposal could put California on a collision course with the Trump administration, which earlier this year released a plan to "maximize water deliveries" from Northern California to the south state. President Donald Trump has promised to bring more water to San Joaquin Valley farmers, who supported him during the 2016 election.

At the same time, the water board's proposal raises new questions about Brown's controversial \$17 billion plan to build two tunnels beneath the Delta. He says the tunnels would fix the estuary's plumbing, enabling water deliveries to the south to proceed more smoothly and with less harm to fish.

Tunnels opponent Doug Obegi, of the National Resources Defense Council, said the state board's proposal undermines the governor's promises of what the tunnels could accomplish. Because of the proposal, much more water will have to flow naturally out of the Delta and into the ocean, reducing the amount that can be pumped to the south state.

As the latest tug-of-war unfolds, the water board's proposal is a stark reminder of how California's water supply, a year after the historic drought officially ended, remains stretched perilously thin. Even in good years, when rain and snow are plentiful, there isn't enough to meet all of the state's needs.

The state water board, which referees California's complicated water-rights system, also is in charge of policing the quality of the water that goes through the Delta. Several years ago, the board began studying water flows into the Delta from the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers, saying standards hadn't been updated since 1995 and were long overdue.

The plan released Friday addresses flows in the San Joaquin River system. The San Joaquin is perhaps California's most overused river system, and state officials say as little as 20 percent of the river even reaches the Delta. The proposal released Friday would increase those so-called "unimpeded flows" to a range of 30 percent to 50 percent.

That could reduce water deliveries to a wide range of water users that pull water out of the San Joaquin and its tributaries, including the cities of San Francisco, Modesto and Merced and hundreds of farms in the San Joaquin Valley. According to a staff report, the board's proposal would take an average of 288,000 acre-feet of water away from those users. An acre-foot is 326,000 gallons.

Separately, the state board released a preliminary plan for re-allocating more of the Sacramento River watershed's flows to fish. That plan calls for increasing the unimpeded flows to 45 percent to 65 percent. Currently, less than half the water on the Sacramento reaches the Delta because of diversions by farms and cities along the way. A more detailed proposal on the Sacramento River will come later this year.

Marcus said some irrigation districts are talking with top state officials about alternatives to the higher flows, such as restoring fish habitats or eliminating the predators that are wiping out endangered species. However, she acknowledged that those talks, which are being brokered by the California Natural Resources Agency, might fail.

"It may be wishful thinking that California's storied water wars could yield to collective efforts," she said.

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Here's how to move beyond the water wars and save the Delta

Re-allocating the flows on the Sacramento and San Joaquin watersheds is aimed at restoring fish populations that have struggled mightily in the past decade or so. The numbers of Chinook salmon haven't rebounded since the drought was declared over, and the tiny Delta smelt continues their possibly irreversible march toward extinction.

In its plan for the San Joaquin, the board said it "recognizes that reduced diversions can create financial and operational challenges for local economies." It estimated that the Valley could lose up to 1,300 jobs.

But farm groups said the state doesn't grasp the enormity of the problems. The California Farm Water Coalition said the job loss would total 6,500.

The state's plan "is just not achievable without staggering human costs," said Chris Scheuring, counsel at the California Farm Bureau Federation. "This ... is just going to break the system at some point."

Scheuring said the proposal will almost certainly lead to farmland being taken out of production — just as farmers are trying to figure out how to comply with new state-imposed rules regulating how much groundwater they can pump.

"We're hit from behind and we're hit from the front," he said. "Obviously there's not enough (water) to go around here."

Commercial fishermen, however, welcomed the proposal.

"No one can deny we've heavily damaged the natural function and benefits of the rivers by over-diversion," said John McManus of the Golden Gate Salmon Association. "Salmon runs in the three major San Joaquin River tributaries have fallen from 70,000 in 1984 to 8,000 in 2014. This has hurt fishing families and coastal communities. The state water board has taken a historic first step to address this problem."



A federal pumping plant near Tracy delivers water to the San Joaquin Valley from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. State officials Friday proposed leaving more water in the Delta to help fish populations, leaving less for humans and farms.

Shared from the 2018-07-10 The Sacramento Bee eEdition

VIEWPOINTS

How to move beyond water wars and save the Delta

BY FELICIA MARCUS *Special to The Sacramento Bee*



The San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta estuary and watersheds improve the lives of nearly everyone in California, and many far beyond.

They put food on the table, put tens of thousands of people to work and deliver drinking water to more than 26 million Californians. These waters are a precious, shared resource. But there is a serious problem.

The ecosystem that the water supports is in crisis. Native fish, such as chinook salmon and steel-head, are on the brink of extinction. Populations of fall-run chinook returning to the San Joaquin River basin have plummeted 90 percent in the last 35 years. And the crisis is affecting other species that depend on fish for survival.

Simply put, these waters are no longer healthy and they need our help to survive. There are many reasons for the decline, including loss of floodplain habitat, pollution and predation from nonnative species. But the key factor is inadequate flow remaining after farms and communities take their sips or gulps. Without adequate flow, floodplains don't flood, migrating fish can't avoid predators and pollution and salts don't get diluted and flushed through the ecosystem as efficiently. It's a cascading problem that is difficult to fix, particularly as climate change causes increasing extremes in precipitation.

Fortunately, we have the ability to restore some balance to this system through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta Plan. But this plan is now more than 20 years old and must be modernized for today's conditions.

The State Water Board staff has just released its final draft of the Lower San Joaquin and Southern Delta update for final public comment. It addresses flows on the three main tributaries of the lower San Joaquin River, and south Delta salinity standards to protect agriculture.

The staff also released an update on the Sacramento/Delta part of the plan to help the Sacramento River and its tributaries and the Delta and its tributaries, including the Calaveras, Cosumnes and Mokelumne rivers. Together, these plans detail the actions we must take to fix the problems in the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

Yes, leaving more water to flow into the Delta from both the San Joaquin and Sacramento watersheds will be challenging for water users, which is why the proposal sends more water but still less than what is optimal for fish and wildlife. Water users can adapt – by switching crops, becoming more efficient and storing more water in wet times. In contrast, species pushed to the brink of extinction have few options.

While the State Water Board has authority to address water flow and quality issues, it cannot order people to restore fish habitat or remove invasive species or take other actions that can help restore fish and wildlife with potentially less water.

But the board can reward such voluntary efforts through lower required flows, providing an olive branch to those who would leave water wars behind in favor of real action.

The public will have additional opportunities to comment on both plan updates. Meanwhile efforts are underway between stakeholders and other state agencies to design voluntary agreements.

Californians need, want and deserve a healthy environment, agriculture and communities. That happens best when people rise to the occasion together.

Felicia Marcus is chairwoman of the State Water Resources Control Board. She can be contacted at Felicia.Marcus@waterboards.ca.gov.

See this article in the e-Edition [Here](#)