



Statement from Tom Smegal, Chief Executive Officer for the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA), Regarding the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board's) Recently Released Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement

September 26, 2025

On September 19th, the State Water Board released a draft staff report on the Phase I Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary, termed as "Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement". BAWSCA is pleased that the State Water Board has taken this step to advance consideration of the Healthy Rivers and Landscape Plan for the Tuolumne River (Tuolumne HRLP) through a public and deliberative process.

Publication of the draft report begins a comment period that will end on November 7, 2025. BAWSCA is carefully reviewing the Draft Scientific Basis Report and will file a comment letter as necessary. The State Water Board has scheduled a public workshop on the draft report on November 5, 2025.

In November 2022, various Tuolumne River parties, including the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State of California stipulating the parties' mutual commitment toward the development and implementation of the Tuolumne HRLP.

On April 11, 2023, the State Water Board provided formal notice that it was commencing the analysis of the scientific basis of the Tuolumne HRLP. That notice indicated that the Board would serve as the lead agency and would prepare a staff report and substitute environmental document (SED).

BAWSCA recognizes the need for a healthy Bay-Delta environment and for providing critically necessary water for all the water users it represents under state law, which includes 1.8 million residents and over 40,000 businesses in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties. BAWSCA supports the efforts by State, federal and local agencies to achieve a resolution supporting these goals, and appreciates the work undertaken by the State Water Board to consider the Tuolumne HRLP.

###