

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
STATE AND FEDERAL CONTRACTORS WATER AGENCY**

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REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

***December 18, 2014
11:30 a.m.***

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

- 1-1 The Board will Consider Corrections or Additions to the Agenda of Items Requiring Immediate Action that have come to the Attention of the Board after Posting the Agenda
- 1-2 Public Comment – Opportunity for members of the public to address the Agency on matters within the Agency’s jurisdiction (as required by Gov. Code Section 54954.3(a))

2.0 ACTION ITEMS (30 MIN)

- 2-1 Consider Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2014– Attachment (Nelson)
Recommendation: Adopt the Board minutes for November 20 by minute order.
- 2-2 Received and Review Draft FY-16 Budget – Attachments (Buck)

3.0 INFORMATION REPORTS (30 MIN)

► ADMINISTRATION (5 MIN)

- 3-1 Board Chair’s report (Nelson)
- 3-2 Executive Director’s Report – Attachment (Buck)
- 3-3 General Counsel’s Report – Attachment to follow (Miller)
- 3-4 SFCWA Income/Expense Report for November 2014 – Attachment to follow (Peltier)

► COORDINATED SCIENCE (15 MIN)

- 3-5 Science Program Manager’s Oral Report – Attachment (Connor)

► **HABITAT PROGRAM (20 MIN)**

3-6 Manager's Habitat Committee Reports - (Buck)

- a. Progress on Development of Third Habitat Delivery Model – DWR/USBR Solicitation
- b. Lower Yolo Ranch Project Status
- c. Tule Red Project Status

4.0 CLOSED SESSION (15 MIN)

4-1 Government Code 54956.8: CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS
Properties:

- 1) Potential Intertidal Habitat Lands in Yolo and Solano County (-5 and +5 foot sea level elevation in Suisun Marsh or Delta Perimeter).

Agency Negotiator: To be Announced

Negotiating Parties: State and Federal Contractors Water Agency

Under Negotiation: Yolo Ranch and Potential Intertidal Habitat Lands

5.0 Identification of Upcoming Major Agenda Topics; next meeting date

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

NOTE:

Requests for a disability related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to attend or participate in a meeting should be made to the Agency Administrator in advance of the meeting to ensure availability of the requested service or accommodation. At the discretion of the Board, all items appearing on this agenda and all committee agendas, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated and may be subject to action by the Board.

SFCWA Mission and Strategic Objectives

Mission: Develop and support programs to produce robust science and habitat restoration projects that improve the Bay-Delta ecosystem, and assist SFCWA member agencies in assuring an adequate, reliable and high quality water supply.

The mission shall be pursued consistent with the following implementation strategies.

Delta Governance & Water Management

- 1. Assist in development and implementation of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.*
- 2. Assist in development and implementation of the Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program.*
- 3. Participate in joint media outreach team comprised of SWP and CVP member agencies.*
- 4. Communicate SFCWA member agency interests before the Delta Conservancy and Central Valley Flood Protection Board.*
- 5. Assist member agencies in supporting solutions related to carrying out water project obligations in Suisun Marsh.*
- 6. In coordination with member agencies, monitor and engage effectively with activities of the Delta Conservancy, Central Valley Flood Protection Board, Delta Science Program, Delta Regional Monitoring Program, Delta Independent Science Board, Interagency Ecological Program and San Francisco Bay Nutrient Management Strategy.*

Habitat

- 1. Implement and facilitate habitat restoration projects including related monitoring and adaptive management.*
- 2. Implement select BDCP conservation measures to address regulatory requirements.*

Science

- 1. Coordinate research resulting in published findings on the Delta ecosystem and its stressors toward developing management actions that further California's co-equal goals of a restored Delta ecosystem and water supply reliability.*
- 2. Facilitate the dissemination and understanding of Science findings.*
- 3. Participate in collaborative research that supports the SFCWA research plan and promote multi-disciplinary and co-incident studies to leverage resources.*
- 4. Partner with local, state, and federal agencies, as well as academia, including but not limited to helping implement the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Science Plan and Action Agenda.*
- 5. Participate in and support science forums and work efforts to increase mutual collaboration and understanding of landscape restoration and multiple stressor effects on the Delta ecosystem.*

Strategic Objectives:

As directed by the SFCWA Board of Directors, SFCWA will pursue the following 2015-2016 objectives in support of its mission and consistent with adopted implementing strategies:

Delta Governance and Water Management

1. *Seek partnerships with the Conservancy and others to advance habitat improvement in the Delta. Support the growth of the Delta Conservancy's capacity to develop and manage habitat projects.*
2. *Determine SFCWA's ongoing support role for the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team Effort by May 2015.*

Habitat

1. *Pending real estate disposition, complete permitting and design of the Lower Yolo Ranch Habitat Project with a goal of construction no later than 2016. Revisit the habitat program funding strategy upon completion of a project funded through reimbursement by DWR and or including Reclamation.*
2. *Pursue additional site maintenance, modifications and final design and permitting of Tule Red in 2015 to prepare for commencement of restoration construction in 2016. Complete construction in 2017*
3. *Assist the Department of Fish and Wildlife in developing a comprehensive habitat restoration monitoring plan.*

Science

1. *Provide comments on and support significant and relevant Delta Science documents being produced in 2015 such as the Delta Science Action Agenda, Update to the State of Bay-Delta Science, the State of the Estuary Report, the Delta Regional Monitoring Program's monitoring plan, Water Board nutrient policy documents, and science-related portions of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (e.g., monitoring and adaptive management sections).*
2. *Update the SFCWA Research Plan by April 1, 2015.*
3. *Continue collaborative efforts with Delta science entities to improve monitoring, assessment and reporting of Bay Delta monitoring and research results through the participation in the California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup and California Estuaries Portal. The next phase of the Portal funded by SFCWA will focus on three areas: working with USFWS to allow their data to be part of the portal, coordinating the inclusion of data from SFCWA-funded projects in the Cache Slough Complex, and implementation of a training program to allow users to use the portal more effectively. Staff will also work with the Workgroup to develop a transition plan to reduce reliance on SFCWA staff and funding by March 1, 2016.*
4. *Maximize our understanding of food web dynamics in the Cache Slough Complex by collaborative implementation of SFCWA funded research. Propose a special session at the 2016 Bay-Delta Science Conference focused on key findings.*
5. *Collaborate on a regional monitoring framework for tidal wetland restoration through participation in IEP's Tidal Wetland Monitoring Project work team, leading to the development of a coordinated monitoring program for assessing restoration projects and their contribution to the Delta Ecosystem.*