

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

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DRAFT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

*January 21, 2016
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 (40 MIN)

- 2-1 Consider Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of December 17 – Attachment (Peltier)
Recommendation: Adopt the Board minutes for December 17 by minute order
- 2-2 FY-17 Budget Process Update – Attachment (Buck)
Recommendation: Consider additional guidance to staff on Budget Preparation
- 2-3 Amendment to Services Contract with Westervelt Ecological Services, Inc., to Address Additional Costs for the Tule Red Habitat Restoration Project Development – Attachment (Buck)
Recommendation: Authorize the Executive Director to Execute a Contract Amendment with Westervelt Ecological Services
- 2-4 Consideration of a Draft Contract with SWPCA for Tidal Restoration Project Development – Attachment (Buck)
Recommendation: Provide comment on the Draft Agreement Prior to Consideration of a Final Agreement in March of 2016

3.0 INFORMATION REPORTS (30 MIN)

▶ ADMINISTRATION (10 MIN)

- 3-1 Board Chair's report (Peltier)
- 3-2 Executive Director Report – (Buck)
- 3-3 General Counsel's Report – Attachment (Miller)
- 3-4 SFCWA Income/Expense Report for December 2015 – Attachment to follow (Wallace)
- 3-5 Significant Correspondence – Attachment (Buck)

▶ COORDINATED SCIENCE (10 MIN)

- 3-6 Science Program Report – Attachment (Fong)

▶ HABITAT PROGRAM (10 MIN)

- 3-7 Manager's Habitat Committee Report - (Buck)
 - a. DWR Habitat RFP progress
 - b. Tule Red Project Report
 - 1. Development of DWR Agreements
 - 2. Financing options
 - 3. Schedule and Permit Update

4.0 Identification of Upcoming Major Agenda Topics; next meeting date

5.0 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 California Water Fix and Eco-Restore Program, consistent with the California Water Action Plan.*
- 2. Communicate SFCWA member agency interests before the Delta Conservancy and Central Valley Flood Protection Board.*
- 3. Assist member agencies in supporting solutions related to carrying out water project obligations in Suisun Marsh.*
- 4. 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 required under the OCAP Biological Opinions for Delta Smelt, Longfin Smelt and Chinook Salmon, and where otherwise in SFCWA members financial and Project support interests, including related monitoring and adaptive management.*

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.*

Habitat

1. *Pursue additional site maintenance, modifications and final design and permitting of Tule Red Restoration Project in early 2016 to prepare for commencement of restoration construction in Summer of 2016. Complete construction in 2017-2018.*
2. *Prepare alternative financing strategies for construction of the Tule Red Restoration Project in order to assure commencement of construction in 2016, in the following priority: a) through a proposal under the expected DWR Habitat RFP, b) through SFCWA's existing MOA with DWR..*
3. *Assist the Department of Fish and Wildlife in developing a comprehensive habitat restoration monitoring plan.*
4. *Promote alternative restored habitat delivery models with the Department of Water Resources and United States Bureau of Reclamation.*
5. *Seek an agreement on comprehensive cost sharing between DWR and USBR for Biological Opinion requirements of the State Water Project and Central Valley Project.*

Science

1. *Provide comments on and support significant and relevant Delta Science documents being produced in 2016 such as the Delta Science Action Agenda, Update to the State of Bay-Delta Science, the State of the Estuary Report, Water Board nutrient policy documents, the Delta Independent Science Board's Water Quality Programs Review and science-related portions of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (e.g., monitoring and adaptive management sections).*
2. *Update the SFCWA Research Plan by June 1, 2016*
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 visualize their data on 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 Department of Water Resources staff as they manage their contract to further populate and refine the Portal, and San Francisco Estuary Partnership consultants to electronically visualize data from the 2015 State of the Estuary Report. Limit future funding (by FY-18) to uploading and visualizing SFCWA Science projects to the Portal.*
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 in 2016.*