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State Water Contractors' Response to State's Proposed Framework for the Voluntary Agreements on the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan

Sacramento, CA – Today, under the leadership of the Newsom Administration, the State outlined a proposed framework for the Voluntary Agreements – an alternative to the regulatory approach proposed by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for the purpose of updating the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. The framework released today is a critical step towards a collaborative approach that integrates flow and other habitat actions to improve the entire Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta watershed.

The State Water Contractors have always supported a voluntary agreement approach to update the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan and are encouraged by the framework and the progress that has been made. With a Voluntary Agreement, a historic suite of integrated actions that go far beyond the SWRCB flow-only approach can begin immediately with near-term results. These actions will help to meet the needs of both the native fish species and the millions of Californians that rely on the same water every day to support their homes, farms and businesses.

“The framework is just that, a framework. The State’s vision for several of the more vexing issues associated with the Bay-Delta Plan update provide a solid foundation to continue discussions and hopefully, finalize the agreements,” said **Jennifer Pierre, General Manager for the State Water Contractors**. “It is critically important to harmonize other permits before the agreements are finalized. We look forward to working with the State team and other stakeholder groups who are equally committed to solving our ecosystem and water supply issues collaboratively. It is the only path to restoring fish and protecting water supply for all Californians.”

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The State Water Contractors is a statewide, non-profit association of 27 public agencies from Northern, Central and Southern California that purchase water under contract from the California State Water Project. Collectively the State Water Contractors deliver water to more than 27 million residents throughout the state and more than 750,000 acres of agricultural land. For more information on the State Water Contractors, please visit www.swc.org.