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## State Water Resources Control Board

August 15, 2018

Honorable John Laird  
Secretary for Natural Resources  
California Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**VIA U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL**

Dear Secretary Laird:

I have received the request you submitted on behalf of the California Natural Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Department of Water Resources for an opportunity to present at next week's board meeting on adaptive implementation and voluntary settlement agreements. Your letter also requests that the board defer final action on the item. As discussed below and after conferring with the Executive Director, both requests are granted.

Throughout the last two years, board members and staff have repeatedly emphasized that voluntary settlement agreements can provide a faster, more durable solution to reasonably protect beneficial uses in the Lower San Joaquin River and its tributaries. The pending board action recognizes the important of both flow and non-flow actions to enhance the fisheries and provides significant flexibility for adaptive implementation. Voluntary settlement agreements present the opportunity to make the non-flow elements more concrete and reduce the potential water supply impact. I look forward to hearing from the parties involved in the voluntary settlement agreement process about their progress in this regard.

Board staff will issue a revised agenda that makes clear final action will occur at a subsequent board meeting. The agenda item next week will provide the final opportunity for comment on the staff-proposed action, but final board action on the water quality control plan update will be continued to a future board meeting.

Sincerely,



Felicia Marcus  
Chair

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