

**AGENDA ITEM 7:      Delta Consumptive Use Study**

Prepared by: Erik Vink

Presented by: Michael George (Delta Watermaster, State Water Resources Control Board)

**Requested Action:    Receive report on Delta Consumptive Use Study**

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Background: The Office of the Delta Watermaster is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day administration of water rights, enforcement activities, and reports on water right activities regarding diversions within the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta. The position was created in the 2009 Delta Reform Act. Michael George was appointed as Delta Watermaster in December 2014 and will serve a four-year term.

Mr. George last appeared before the Commission on May 21, 2015 and provided an update on a variety of activities, including a proposed agricultural consumptive use study. Since that time, the State Water Resources Control Board has entered into and funded a \$200,000 contract with the University of California at Davis Center for Watershed Science (UC Davis) under which UC Davis collected 2015 growing season data to measure consumptive use of water at selected locations within the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta) for the purpose of collecting, comparing and evaluating evapotranspiration (ET) data during the growing season. This study follows on the proof of concept study comparing agricultural consumptive use that the Commission funded with UC Davis in FY 2012-13.

The Commission has committed to providing a modest amount of funding (\$20,000 in FY 2015-16 funding) to support the Delta Consumptive Use Study. Mr. George will provide an update on the study and other recent efforts of relevance to Delta water use.