



# State Water Board delays adopting Bay Delta SED Plan

*Water quantity and quality hang in the balance  
for eastern Merced County*

**For Immediate Release:** November 7, 2018

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Today, the State Water Resources Control Board delayed adoption of the Bay Delta SED Plan for 35 days. It is the second delay in the past few months and was prompted by a joint letter from out-going Governor Jerry Brown and Governor-elect Gavin Newsom. The Board similarly delayed the final adoption of the Bay Delta SED Plan in August.

The State Water Resources Control Board has stated the delays are intended to provide more time for voluntary settlement agreements to meet the objectives of the Bay Delta SED. The purported intent of the Bay Delta SED is to support salmon in the Delta and San Joaquin River system. MID has countered that simply diverting water away from eastern Merced County will do nothing to address the main stressors affecting the salmon lifecycle.

“We welcome the pledge of the Governor and Governor-elect to actively and meaningfully engage to bring this matter to closure. Their participation is critical if we are going to reach a settlement at this point,” said MID General Manager John Sweigard.

“Merced ID has been consistently proactive in advocating for ecosystem restoration of the developed Merced River corridor. Our [Merced River S.A.F.E. Plan](#) would immediately provide increased flows on the Merced River; restore 5.5 miles of habitat for salmon spawning and rearing; decrease non-native salmon predators and their habitat; and modernize salmon hatchery operations for the benefit of California fishermen.”

MID will remain open to advocating its proposal as the State Water Board allows for an additional 35 days to reach agreements that would avoid adoption of its Bay Delta SED Plan.

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