**HRL Update: State Board Adopts Updated Plan, HRL Pathway**

**What happened:**

- The State Water Resources Control Board on October 29, 2026, adopted an update to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, which incorporates elements of the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (HRL) pathway.
- The Board's action followed a two-day public meeting that featured presentations from SWRCB staff and public comments from HRL participants, tribal interests, and the general public.
- A number of revisions were made to the draft Bay-Delta Plan, including some suggested by public water agencies, prior to adoption by the Board.

**Key takeaway:**

- Adoption of the updated Bay-Delta Plan represents a major milestone, but because the Plan does not fully incorporate the HRL pathway and there were a number of changes that have been made to the October 16 draft, the SWC needs to thoroughly review the plan, as adopted, to fully understand the benefits or risks it presents to the SWC.
- We are hopeful that the adopted Plan is something the SWC and the other PWAs can support.
- Remaining concerns include:
    - The balancing provision that creates authorities for the SWB to restrict adaptive management actions by the CVP and SWP that are otherwise approved by fish agencies.
    - Lack of a demonstrable commitment by SWB to embrace a science program that SWC can support.
    - Lack of clarity about the SWP and CVP commitments related to Delta flows outside of HRL.

**What we're saying:**

- The statement below is available for reporters asking for comment from the SWC:

  "The State Water Contractors had hoped today would be a celebration of a plan that would finally turn Delta management towards a science-based, adaptive approach. The Board's decision and late-night revisions leave us with unanswered questions and concerns."

**What's next:**

- The updated Bay-Delta Plan will go to the Office of Administrative Law for a 60-day review, generally, to ensure the plan is legally valid, clear, and consistent.
- The SWC will review the adopted plan and consider our political and legal strategies.