CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE, 2013
PLENARY

October 27, 2011
Program Overview

• Mountain Counties Water Resources (MCWRA) Overview
• Water Issue / Regional Challenges
• Beneficial Uses of Water
Overview of the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

- Organized in the 1950’s
- Reorganized in 1979 to represent Counties of Origin
- CA Water Plan Update, 2005
- 2009 Board of Directors – Refocused Association
  - Water policy principles
  - Legislative committee
  - Advocacy
Overview MCWRA

- 40% of the state’s developed water supply originates from Mountain Counties Areas
- 15,758 square miles or 9.9 percent of the State
- 383 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers under Federal and State Law
- Ten major watershed areas – 13,236 square miles
- 17 million acre-feet of natural runoff

Source: CA Water Plan Update, 2009
Source of Your Water Supply

Watersheds on 10 Major Rivers

• American
• Bear
• Consumnes
• Feather
• Moklelumne
• Merced
• San Joaquin
• Stanslaus
• Tuolumne and Yuba Rivers

American River
Major Water Issue

- Delta Crisis
  - Delta Stewardship Council
  - Bay Delta Conservation Plan
  - State Water Resources Board
  - CA Water Plan Update, 2013
  - North and South Differences
Regional Challenges

- Senior Water Right Protections
- Local Control
- Redirected Consequences
- Legislation
- Economy
- Sustainability
- Extended Droughts
- Climate Change
Federal Legislation – HR 1837
Congressional Hearing

"What have the upstream water users given up? ... let's ask these other people to give up something..."

- Tom Birmingham
  General Manager, Westlands Water District

"I'd like to know where the folks in the Sacramento River basin are giving their fair share."

- Congressman Jim Costa
Beneficial Uses

• Domestic Purposes
• Hydro Power Generation
• Agriculture
• Recreation
• Economy
Placer County Water Agency Owns and Operates
- 5 Interconnected Hydroelectric Power Plants
- 2 Major Storage Reservoirs (French Meadows and Hell Hole)
- 24 Miles of Tunnels

Project Can Generate
- 244 Megawatts, Peak Power
- 1.1 Million Megawatt Hours Annually
Agriculture

- Beneficial Use of Water
- Improved Water Use Efficiency
- Support the Regional and State Economy
- Improved Water Quality in Streams
The Source: The Journey of Sierra Nevada Water

Beneficial Uses in the Area of Origin
“...Our new reality is one in which we must manage a resource characterized by uncertainty and vulnerability due to climate change and changing ecosystem needs.” – Lester Snow

“The strategies outlined in these pages provide the means to manage resources comprehensively; from snowmelt to estuary, from field to tap, and all the uses within the watershed” – Lester Snow