

CWP Delta Regional Workshop Summary Antioch, CA – May 21, 2009

OVERVIEW

The 2009 Regional Workshops for the California Water Plan featured the Public Review Draft of the Highlights document, as well as an overview of current conditions for the respective hydrologic region or area of special interest. Each workshop also included a presentation on the scenario planning approach used to consider future uncertainty for water management. In the agenda, several hours were dedicated to small group review and comment of the draft Highlights and Regional Report for that region or area. Based on suggestions made during the 2007 and 2008 workshops, time was also provided for updates on related planning processes.

A workshop for the Delta areas was held on May 21, 2009 in Antioch, CA. Copies of the workshop presentations, handouts, and materials are available on the Water Plan website at www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/materials. A brief recap of the presentations is provided in the following paragraphs and the remainder of this document provides a summary of the small group discussions. Flip charts and worksheets were used to record ideas generated during the discussions and transcripts of the recorded results are incorporated into the summary.

Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR, Chief of Department of Planning and Local Assistance, made the first presentation and outlined the planning process and status of major 2009 Update activities, culminating in the release of the Public Review Draft. Paul described the sections of the Highlights booklet, which serves as an Executive Summary for Update 2009. The Highlights begins with a description of existing water conditions in California that require urgent attention and response. The following pages outline the range and variation in water resources throughout the State.

The Highlights also discusses Climate Change and the existing framework for Integrated Water Management, which links to the Resource Management Strategies outlined in Volume Two and Regional Management Strategies provided in Volume 3. Other features of the Highlights include a discussion on scenarios and a fold-out section describing the Strategic Plan for Update 2009, including key objectives. The concluding recommendations represent “policies, strategies, and approaches that will help reduce and remove impediments, and leverage resources and opportunities” to implement Water Plans goals, objectives, and related actions.

In the second presentation, Karl Winkler, DWR, Central District Chief, reviewed the key characteristics of the Delta area. The overview included items contained in the Regional Report, with special focus on local and regional issues, and management and planning activities. Paul Dabbs presented a third focus on the scenario approach being developed for future water planning. Work is currently underway to quantify potential water demands, with a subsequent phase to evaluate water resource management strategies.

Workshop attendees reviewed, discussed, and provided suggestions for each section, as recorded on the following pages. The agenda ended with several updates on related statewide water and planning initiatives: Pierre Stephens, DWR, Regional Lead for the Central District, gave updates on upcoming meetings related to water management as well as an overview of current drought conditions and activities.

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Discussion A – Public Review Draft: Highlights and Table of Contents

- original Water Plans prohibited SWP water for permanent crops
 - permanent crops seem to have been established with lower priority water; they are now looking to firm up junior water rights
- to discuss water supply reliability, flip the flood-risk frame: what is the likelihood of constrained (unreliable) supplies during the life of a mortgage?
- How is Update 2009 integrating with BDCP? (response: not providing any specific recommendations; are coordinating with Delta Vision)
- Does the Water Plan reflect these other efforts? (yes)
 - Water Plan can influence other policies/decisions
- Who sets water policy? Need discussion on water governance
- Is the Water Plan work with entities such as Contra Costs Building Department? (response: are working with State agencies through the Steering Committee; local water and land use departments are encouraged to work together)
- Blueprint process looked at population density and transportation; did not look at water
 - planning processes are not well integrated
 - IRWMs need to reach out to land planning efforts
- promote regional self-sufficiency
 - Southern California should build a dam for their supply
 - Southern California can't manage their water and now want to manage ours
 - what is the extent of contingency planning in meeting demand? (response: MWD had three year supply to weather drought with no Delta supplies)

Other Comments

- Resource Management Strategies
 - What is local conveyance? (response: infrastructure to move water locally; interties; Solano County wastewater, recycling, and water supply infrastructure, and agreement with Bureau of Reclamation)
 - for this area, reduced exports would be the best response
- the East Bay MUD Mokelumne Conveyance project – where does that fit in?
- where can numbers be found regarding how much water is needed for a “healthy” Delta?
 - requires modeling approaches, is hydrologically driven
 - Delta Vision tried to get a sense of this
- is there data for historic water quality? e.g. showing water quality before and after pumps were brought online
- earthquake data from DRMS should be brought in for the Bay area, we're on the Hayward Fault

Discussion B – Regional Report (Issues)

- 335,900 gallons = 1 acre foot
- Peripheral Canal
 - test surveys (20' x 4') are being conducted on private land, law suits are being filed
 - the proposed tunnels through Bethel Island will destroy groundwater
 - will result in salination
 - will destroy fish and livelihoods

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- currently, 5 billion gallons of water are pumped out per day from the South Delta; new pump system will reach 10-15 billion gallons per day
- giant flood gates will compromise species and overall ecosystem; are being promoted as “flood protection” – it really relates to salinity
- 500,000 people rely on the Delta as their community
- this proposal will destroy the economy and boating
- development is being prohibited in the areas over the proposed tunnels
- compliance/abatement notices are being sent out from Contra Costs Building Department (is that at DWR’s request?)
 - o when mapped out, it looks like the condemned properties track with the eastern alignment option for the canal
 - o one State agency heard that a property-owner received a notice; paid to make the necessary improvements; and still lost the property
 - o BDCP western alignment has few houses
- the Peripheral Canal is being shoved through
 - o boring in Bradford
 - o no routes eliminated
 - o premature EIR study
- removing Delta flows will only make the salt balance worse
- the inflow/outflow of diversions affect cities along the Delta and quality of life
- is it really possible to understand what’s needed, with any sense of certainty, for an action 50 years into the future?
 - o the Delta is being used as an experiment
 - o unsure of improvements in reliability
 - o taking Delta land, need to look at reducing demand
 - o Water Boards are looking at Delta water with new information
 - o amount of water v. where it’s taken
 - o habitat restoration and river functions are as important as water
- BDCP
 - is not an open process
 - o the message seems to be that public approval is not required
 - o grass-level advocacy can’t match SWP contractors influence
 - o there is a race to the solution
 - o Jerry Johns was sent out to address a property-owners meeting and is leading BDCP
 - Delta Vision stakeholders suggested that DWR separate the SWP from its other responsibilities, due to conflict of interests (that is playing out now)
 - o who makes the final decision? (could be DWR that makes the decision)
 - Who funds the BDCP?
 - Who is on the BDCP Steering Committee? (response: State Water Contractors, CVPC, NGOs, regulatory agencies, plus NDWA)
 - o who represents the Delta?
 - The BDCP process is very different from CALFED; seems anti-CALFED with very little public process
- 6 MAF of water is diverted from the Delta
 - 1 MAF to Bay area
 - 1 MAF to Southern California urban uses
 - o SAWPA and MWD don’t rely on Delta water during a drought?
 - 4 MAF to southern San Joaquin for corporate Central Valley growers
- Water rights
 - are over-allocated

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- Does San Joaquin River – Friant dam water flow to Delta? (response: most to Central Valley and Southern California)
 - this is a side story that needs to be told
- Jeffrey Michael does business forecasting at University of the Pacific
 - reductions in south San Joaquin jobs are not tied to water

Discussion B: Regional Reports (Management, Planning)

- What are the assumptions of regional reports? (response: describes conditions, issues, challenges, and strategies)
 - is there discussion about uncertainty of supply in scenarios? (response: yes)
- IRWMs don't control the water "knobs" in the Delta)

Discussion C – Scenarios

- Can we make a recommendation that in looking at self-sufficiency, that regions need to plan for/factor in reduced Delta flows; create a reduced Delta flow scenario?
 - don't assume existing Delta flows as a baseline
 - is there discussion about uncertainty of supply in scenarios? (response: yes)

Attendance

Rick Breitenbach, CalFED

Marci Coglianese, Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee, Delta Levees Subcommittee

Eric Dukes, Bethel Island

David Graas, Bethel Island Municipal Advisory Council

Janet Graham, WSI International

David Isaacson, WaterWise Consulting

Adam Lizarraga, National Flood Insurance Protection Bureau

Jody Mazarella, Bethel Island

Dennis Nunn, Reclamation District 830

Martha Parsons, Antioch City Council

Kay Power, Sportsman Yacht Club

Judi Quan, Delta Protection Commission

Jane Wager-Tyack, League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County

Bill Worrell, Sportsmen Inc. Yacht Club

Betty Yee, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR, Chief, Dept. of Planning and Local Assistance

Paul Dabbs, DWR, Water Plan Project Manager

Karl Winkler, DWR, Chief, North Central Region Office

Barbara Cross, DWR, Tribal Liaison

Gary Lippner, DWR, DPLA

Pierre Stephens, DWR, Central District

Elizabeth Patterson, DWR, DPLA

Judie Talbot, Center for Collaborative Policy, CSUS