Water Plan Update 2013

Developing The Highlights Booklet

December 10, 2013
Water Plan Update 2013 Highlights

Workshop Objectives

Receive Stakeholder Input on the Draft
Water Plan Update 2013 Highlights
Booklet regarding:

- Red Flags
- Glaring Omissions
- Content Priorities
- Readability, Utility
Water Plan Update 2013 Highlights

Purpose of the Booklet

Create an abridged version to the 3,000+ page Water Plan

Underscore absolute minimum of what must be known to make decisions that move us toward the Update 2013 vision

Move voters and policy-makers to action
Water Plan Update 2013 Highlights
Primary Audiences

- State Legislature
- State government agencies
- Local and regional water managers
- Tribal and federal governments
- Academic Institutions
- Local land use decision-makers
- Non-government organizations
- General public/voters
What we’ve heard
What we heard at the Plenary

- Be aggressive /influential
- Be specific about powerful threats/challenges
- Convince people that what we have is valuable (and then show that it is threatened)
- Focus on responses, rather than threats
- Build on successes
What we heard at the Plenary

- Regional summaries
- Finance graphics and the ROI from water investment
- IWM success
- Data and analysis
- Health and safety
Overarching Principles

- Less words, more pictures.
- Graphics should have directive messages.
- The graphics should speak for themselves.
- Make succinct and use plenty of pointers
Highlights Structure
Water Scenarios 2050:

What will California look like in 2050? Will the population grow or slow down? Will the patterns of climate change continue? Will the protection of water quality and endangered species be driven mostly by laws, creating a patchwork of legal requirements? We have no way of predicting the future, but we can construct some plausible scenarios. Future scenarios can be used to help us better understand the implications of future conditions on water management. Update 2009 made significant improvements to the scenarios by considering the potential effect of long-term climate change on future water demands. (See more on climate change in Highlights pages 8 through 11.)

The California Water Plan acknowledges that planning for the future is uncertain and that change will continue to occur. It is not possible to know for certain how population, water demand patterns, environmental conditions, the climate, and many other factors that affect water use and supply may change by 2050. To anticipate change, our approach to water management and planning for the future needs to incorporate consideration of uncertainty, risk, and sustainability.

Update 2009 uses three future scenarios for year 2050 to illustrate how the water community would need to respond to a variety of future conditions. Regions respond by implementing a mix of resource management strategies. (See more about resource management strategies on Highlights pages 18 and 19 and examples of regional strategies on Highlights pages 20 and 21.) The title of each scenario—Current Trends, Slow & Strategic Growth, and Expansive Growth—tells us something about how different factors, like population, irrigated land, or background water conservation (growing code changes, natural replacement, actions water users implement on their own, etc.), are assumed to change over time. These are factors over which the water community has less control yet affect future water demand for the urban, agricultural, and environmental sectors.

Factors of Uncertainty:

- Population
- Land Use
- Irrigated Crop Area
- Environmental Water
- Background Water Conservation

Factors that Shape Our Future:

An uncertain future to which the water community will need to respond.

Current Trends:

- Trends are projected to continue into the future.
- Regulations are not coordinated or comprehensive, creating uncertainty for planners and managers.
- The state continues to face lawsuits, from fixed damages to water quality and endangered species protections.

Slow & Strategic Growth:

- Private, public, and governmental institutions from all three sectors are working to improve water quality and environmental conditions.
- The state continues to implement cooperative and coordinated regulatory programs to improve water quality and protect fish and wildlife.

Expansive Growth:

- Future conditions are more resource intensive than existing conditions.
- Irrigation of water quality and environmental conditions is driven mostly by lawsuits.
- The state has responded to a mix of strategies, creating a patchwork of regulations and uncertainty for planners and water managers.

Combined Water Demand Change by Scenario:

The charts at the bottom of this page show the change in statewide water demand between 2050 and 2010 for each scenario. (See pages 16 and 17 for potential water demand changes for each hydrologic region.)

Legend:

- Light blue = average population
- Blue line = average historical demand
- Green line = average historical demand with climate change
- Yellow line = average demand change
- Red line = average demand change with climate change

Read more on scenarios and how they were used in estimating future water demand in Volume 1, Chapter 3 Managing an Uncertain Future.
Proposed “Takeaway” Messages of Update 2013 Highlights Booklet

1. **Water is California’s Life Blood.** Every living thing in the state, as well as our economy, depends on reliable, clean water to thrive.

2. **California’s Complex Water Resources System is in Crisis.** Our interconnected system of water resources – natural and manmade – is severely threatened on many fronts, with significant risks to our health and safety and economic well-being.

3. **A Diverse Portfolio Approach is Required to Address the Challenges.** The complexity of our water resources systems and the associated risks demand a diverse set of actions and investment strategies. There is no silver bullet.

4. **The Solution Requires Integration, Alignment and Investment.** Commitment to the integrated water management approach, alignment towards a common vision, and stable financing are essential to ensure future resiliency.

5. **We All Have a Role to Play in Securing Our Future.** Decision makers, resource agencies, water resource managers and interest groups at the State, federal, Tribal and local levels need to actively engage in the solution.
1. Introductory Message
2. Integrated Water Management Primer
3. Update 2013 and the “Takeaway” Messages
4. Water: The Essence of Life for California
5. California Water Today: the Lifeblood for Our State
6. A Call for Action: Ignore at Our Own Peril
7. The Future is Uncertain
8. California’s Water: Charting a Future for Resiliency
9. California Vision 2050: The Desired Future For Water
10. Three Themes of Update 2013
11. Funding Integrated Water Management
Questions for Reviewers:

As a reader, does each section of the Highlights tell you:

- Why you should care?
- What you should know?
- What you should do?
Document Walk-Through