X-Sender: kamyarg@cd-eso
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To: Paul Dabbs <pdabbs@water.ca.gov>, Barbara Cross <bcross@water.ca.gov>
From: Kamyar Guivetchi <kamyarg@water.ca.gov>
Subject: Feedback on Bulletin 160 Sacramento Scoping Session for Kickoff Session
Cc: Randy Brown <rbrown@water.ca.gov>, Bill Bennett <bennett@water.ca.gov>, Karl Winkler <kwinkler@water.ca.gov>, Ray Hart <hartr@water.ca.gov>, Steve Macaulay <macaulay@water.ca.gov>

Barbara and Paul:

Dwight Russell informed me that you are holding a Kickoff Session for preparing Bulletin 160-2003. I attended the Sacramento Public Scoping Session and have attached a file to this email describing my observations and suggestions inspired by the session. I hope that my input assists your planning process and contributes to the preparation and dissemination of the next California Water Plan.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Take Care,

Kamyar

Observations and Suggestions 2.doc

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Kamyar Guivetchi, Program Manager
Suisun Marsh Branch
Environmental Services Office
Department of Water Resources
3251 S Street, Room A-15, Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 227-7529 phone
(916) 227-7554 FAX
kamyarg@water.ca.gov
<http://iep.water.ca.gov/suisun/>http://iep.water.ca.gov/suisun/

Observations and Suggestions
Sacramento Public Scoping Session for Bulletin 160-2003

Prepared by Kamyar Guivetchi[1]

February 3, 2000

My goal for preparing this write-up is to provide observations and suggestions inspired by the Sacramento Public Scoping Session for Bulletin 160-2003. The suggestions address my observations during the session, focusing on: (1) options for the form and content of Bulletin 160, (2) improving data and information exchange, and (3) value-added features for the Water Plan. I have indicated opportunities to coordinate the Water Plan update with the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and existing tools. My suggestions are intended to supplement and reinforce (not replace) the existing preparation and outreach process.

Observations

The session was well organized and well attended. The presentation content was just the right mix of information, process, and vision for the next Bulletin 160. Our presenters set an excellent tone for soliciting comments, promoting audience participation, and emphasizing DWR's goal of developing a water plan that is objective, scientifically-based, and user-oriented. The people, who commented, while passionate in their views, did not appear adversarial or hostile.

I noted the following themes during the public comment portion of the session:

- Users of Bulletin 160 would like more information presented in a user-friendly way to support and substantiate findings and conclusions. As one person put it, "to make the bulletin more transparent".

- Users would like more attention and analysis on their particular region of interest (e.g., county or city).

- Users would like more input in selecting options and assumptions for future water need reduction and water supply augmentation.

- Users would like more and earlier access to basic data and information collected and used to develop Bulletin 160.

- There is particular interest in the relationship between urban growth patterns and trends and current and future water demand and supply.

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[1] Please forward questions or comments on this write-up to Kamyar Guivetchi at (916) 227-7529 or email kamyarg@water.ca.gov.

Options for Bulletin 160-2003 Form and Content

Three conceptual options have occurred to me for how we can "package" Bulletin 160-2003. Options 2 and 3 would utilize information technology to address needs expressed during the public comment period.

1. **Keep the format similar to Bulletin 160-98 (B-160).** The format and content would be paper-based (two-dimensional). A digital copy of B-160 would reside on DWR's website (as now) to facilitate public access and limited search capabilities. This option does not address any of the comments at the scoping session and is more limiting and less flexible for information sharing and assessing multiple alternatives.

2. **Produce an electronic Bulletin (*e*-160).** The format would be digital / electronic and *e*-160 would be primarily distributed on a chosen digital medium (e.g., CD-ROM) and available on DWR's website. The electronic bulletin would address the scoping session request to provide more information in a user-friendly way to support and substantiate findings and conclusions. *e*-160 would add a "third dimension" to the existing paper-based bulletin by providing hyperlinks in the text to make the document "more transparent". The assumptions, data, and information supporting a calculated value, finding, conclusion, or recommendation would be directly linked to its reference in the bulletin text. This would reduce the need to "leave things out" because of report size and format considerations. It would also allow for unlimited flexibility to cross-link and reference different sections of the report to each other. A paper version could be produced as needed with "static" or inactive hyperlinks.

3. **Produce an electronic and interactive Bulletin (*i*-160).** The interactive Bulletin would include all of the features of *e*-160 (option 2) with a "fourth dimension" of interactivity. *i*-160 would address the request for attention to user-specified regions (e.g., county or city), and more input in selecting options and assumptions for future water need reduction and water supply augmentation. The interactive bulletin would begin to empower the water community to actively participate in "what-if" analyses, without dependency on DWR staff. The fourth dimension would essentially be a limited database and toolkit linked to the Bulletin. The toolkit could be invoked in a number of ways, such as through electronic "sidebars" or as an appendix to the bulletin. The database would include data and information at the DAU level. The amount and type of data/information on the database would be decided by the Advisory Committee and size limitations of the digital medium chosen to distribute the bulletin. The toolkit would include a limited number of "canned" applications (like web-base applets), developed by DWR in response to user needs. For example, the applets could enable users to select data from the database, aggregate data for selected DAUs, prepare simple tables and plots of the data, select from the list of options to reduce demand and augment

supply that make sense in the region of interest, etc. The web-based version of *i*-160 could have more data and a larger toolbox because of additional storage availability. The web-based version would also facilitate real time feedback on the bulletin from the water community through an interactive web page. A paper version of *i*-160 could be produced as needed with inactive hyperlinks and toolkit.

The California Water Plan Information Exchange (Water PIE)

I suggest developing the California Water Plan Information Exchange or Water PIE, as the water-planning analog of CDEC. This would address the request for more and earlier access to basic data and information collected and used to develop Bulletin 160. The Water PIE would supplement (not replace) one of the Bulletin 160 options described above, likely either *e*-160 or *i*-160. The Water PIE would include all of the basic data and information we collect and consider in preparing Bulletin 160, including aerial photos, and GIS layers. The Water PIE would essentially be a relational database and a toolkit of applications for data retrieval, presentation, calculations, etc. The toolbox would be similar to the one described as part of *i*-160, but more extensive. Like the interactive bulletin format, the Water PIE would promote water community involvement in alternative data analyses and "what if" scenario testing, while ensuring a common database and toolkit developed and maintained by DWR.

The Water PIE would maintain the data and information for all subsequent bulletins (and past if deemed necessary), allowing for trend analyses. The toolbox would be developed and updated in direct response to the needs of the water community. It would be web-based, which would facilitate real time feedback from the water community through an interactive web page. The Interagency Ecological Program Delta and Tributaries Database and integrated website can serve as a production-level model for the Water PIE. Much of the base technology is in place, including the ability to handle GIS layers over the Internet.

In addition to supporting the California Water Plan, the Water PIE would be an invaluable resource for DWR's and CALFED's Water Management Strategy planning, including water-use efficiency, water transfers, watershed management, water conveyance and integrated storage options. The Water PIE would also serve as a common "data warehouse" and knowledge base for water planners and policy-makers.

Value-added Features for the Water Plan

I suggest a couple of value-added features for the Water Plan that came to mind as a result of the scoping session.

1. I second Maury Roos' recommendation to update the unimpaired flow estimates from Bulletin 1 that are at the foundation of the bulletin. As CALFED completes its Stage 1 implementation (7-10 years), major decisions will have to be made regarding the need and implementation of additional storage and an isolated conveyance facility, among other decisions. It would be comforting to know that we are using up-to-date estimates for water supply in making future "multi-billion dollar decisions".

2. I suggest expanding our data collection, presentation, and analysis of urban growth patterns and trends as it relates to existing and future water demand and supply patterns and trends. The importance of understanding and documenting this relationship was raised at the public scoping session and is now the issue of Assembly Bill 1219. This topic was also addressed by one of the panels at the Water Education Foundation's 1999 Executive Briefing. That panel specifically recommended the development of county-level, GIS layers of growth versus water supply patterns to assist local water planners and policy-makers assess property development proposals and water needs. Specifically, I suggest that we collect growth data at the DAU level and produce GIS layers of growth and water supply patterns and trends. This data set is essential for future decisions in growth, water supply, and water management.

Opportunities for Coordination and Cost-Share with Other Programs

Undoubtedly, additional funds and resources are needed to move toward an electronic Bulletin 160, Water PIE, updating unimpaired flow estimates, and expanding growth-water supply analysis. At the same time, a good argument can be made that CALFED and other programs need the information and capabilities derived from these improvements. This provides the opportunity to coordinate and cost-share the development of these new features with CALFED and other programs.