

Impact Analysis

We are proposing a two phase impact analysis. The first phase would take place before operational studies are complete and the alternatives are completely defined. The second phase would follow operation studies and alternative definition. This paper focus on the first phase or early impact analysis.

Early Impact Analysis

The assessment of programmatic impacts to resources (see enclosure) would begin before we have completely defined the alternatives. This early effort would focus on construction/land use changes, in all common programs as well as storage and conveyance. Examples include:

- Water Quality - Source Control Facilities;
- System Integrity - Levee Construction/Channel Improvement;
- Ecosystem Restoration - Terrestrial Habitat Development;
- Water Use Efficiency - ???
- Storage - Upstream, In and South of Delta; and
- Conveyance - Modified thru Delta and Dual.

Since we are preparing a programmatic document, impact analysis, to the extent practicable, would focus on representative construction projects or land use changes. For example:

- Water Quality - identify categories of facilities such as agricultural drainage impoundments, mine drainage impoundments and/or treatment and storm water control structures;
- System Integrity - identify representative levee stabilization sites w/without habitat development and representative channel improvement sites w/without habitat development;
- Ecosystem Restoration - identify representative examples of riparian habitat development in the Yolo and Sutter Bypasses, representative examples of land conversion for tidal wetlands in the Delta and representative fish screens;
- Water Use Efficiency - ???
- Storage - for Sacramento Valley storage focus on an example off-stream site plus a groundwater/conjunctive use site. Similar examples from the San Joaquin basin and off-canal sites in the San Joaquin Valley; and
- Conveyance - identify a representative east side, west side, and through delta alignments.

The description of the representative construction projects or land use changes would be in terms of ranges. For example (all numbers are for illustration only):

- Water Quality - there would be 10 to 25 agricultural drainage impoundments. We are examining 3 representative sites at (locations). They range in size from 200 to 500 acres.
- System Integrity - all levees in the Western Delta will be stabilized to the same level of protection. We are examining 6 representative sites at (locations). Three sites will include habitat development and three will not. The sites range in length from 0.25 miles to 1 mile in length;
- Ecosystem Restoration - there would be 8,000 to 10,000 acres of new riparian habitat in the Yolo and Sutter Bypasses. We are examining 4 representative sites at (locations).

The sites range in size from 250 to 500 acres;

- Storage - there will be off stream storage in the Sacramento Valley. We will examine two representative sites at(locations). The storage capacity will range in size from 0.5 to 3maf; and
- Conveyance - there will be a possible change in water conveyance thru the Delta. We are examining 3 representative configurations (general alignment paths). The widths of the alignments vary between 0.25 to 1 mile.

Finally, we would describe the consequences of the construction efforts and land use changes. That is, we would evaluate and describe terrestrial wildlife, economic, archeological, etc. impacts.