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# **CHAPTER V**

## *Consultation and Coordination*



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*U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
MID-PACIFIC REGION*

## CHAPTER V

### CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

#### A. LEAD AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

Reclamation is the lead agency responsible for the preparation of this "Report on Refuge Water Supply Investigations," and the "Refuge Water Supply Planning Report," which will contain recommendations relative to refuge water supply. These studies are being conducted in cooperation with the Service, DFG, and DWR who are each providing technical expertise relative to the water and land resources for each of the study areas. In addition, the Grassland Water District has provided a significant monetary contribution to the study with funds raised by the California Waterfowl Association. Those funds financed various investigations on private wetlands within the Grassland Resource Conservation District.

Throughout the course of this study, Reclamation and its contractor (James M. Montgomery, Consulting Engineers, Inc.) have worked closely with various Service, DFG, and DWR staff at each refuge and from each agency's respective regional and State office in developing data for this report. The data was compiled and prepared in draft report format for agency review. Their comments were used, where appropriate, in this report.

#### B. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Since the initiation of the Refuge Water Supply Study in October 1985, numerous meetings have been held with environmental and wildlife organizations and water and irrigation districts to discuss study objectives, issues and concerns, and planning procedures. A news release discussing the initiation of the study was provided to newspapers within the study area. In addition, two public information documents were released to over two hundred agencies, organizations, legislators, and individuals providing information on the progress of the study and soliciting input on alternative water delivery plans and pertinent issues. Public involvement activities are discussed in greater detail in the Public Involvement Appendix.

### **C. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CONSULTATION**

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires Federal agencies to insure that their actions are not likely to jeopardize endangered or threatened species in any proposed action, and that the Service provide necessary consultation. The Service has provided Reclamation a list of endangered and candidate species which may occur within the sites investigated. Those species are included in this report.

Reclamation will request that the Service provide an informal Section 7 consultation and species list update while this report is being reviewed. Additional information will be provided to the Service through the draft "Refuge Water Supply Planning Report". The Service will then determine if a formal Section 7 consultation will be necessary.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that Federal agencies consider cultural resources in their proposed actions. The Regional Cultural Resource Officer has been consulted and cultural resource inventories for archeological sites will be conducted prior to the recommendation of proposed plans.

### **D. ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED**

Each of the fifteen managed wetland areas has problems and needs relative to water supply and delivery, as discussed in the sub-chapters of Chapter IV. In general, the following issues are common to most of the areas and will need to be addressed and/or resolved prior to presenting the recommended plans for each area in the draft planning report.

1). **Central Valley Project Authorization.** Reclamation recognizes that the delivery of water to Federal and state refuges and management areas is authorized by existing CVP legislation. However, there have been numerous amendments to the original authorizing Act, as well as Federal legislation relative to the protection of waterfowl of the Pacific Flyway and endangered species. In the process of plan selection and recommendation, it will be necessary to understand the authorities and requirements of these legislative acts as they relate the delivery and costs of water and power to each area. In this regard, a consultation and legal review will be requested of the Department of the Interior Solicitor's Office, and included in the draft planning report.

2). **Water Quality.** Standards for maximum organic and inorganic concentrations need to be established to determine the acceptability of agricultural return flow and groundwater for refuge application. The Service will be requested to provide these standards for inclusion in the draft planning report.

3). **Refuge Priorities.** Reclamation will request from the Service a prioritized list of refuges within the Sacramento Valley and the San Joaquin Valley to receive water. The information would allow system-wide analysis so that decisions on water supply and water shortages can be made.

4). **Cost Sharing.** As discussed in Chapter I non-Federal participation in the development of dependable water supplies will be an important factor in plan selection and recommendation.

5). **Legal and Institutional Concerns** The current demand for CVP water exceeds the anticipated available supply. The Sacramento River Basin, American River Basin, and Delta Export Water Contracting EIS's will address the effects of providing CVP water for various agricultural, municipal, industrial, and fish and wildlife uses. The results of the EIS's and subsequent allocations could result in legal arguments by those users who do not receive their desired allocation.

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