

PROPOSED APPROACH TO ANALYZING SCENARIOS

This approach is designed to permit exploring the relative benefits of various combinations of assets, operating rules and sharing formulas without first deciding how b2 would be treated. This approach implicitly will produce results similar to the water user's position, since they contend that measures in place with the adoption of the Accord use up all of the b2 water.

The baseline would be the Accord, the original AFRP upstream actions, VAMP and existing COE constraints at Banks. Each of several sets of assets, operating rules and sharing formulas would be evaluated through a gaming exercise with the assets used to provide environmental, water supply and water quality benefits in addition to those provided by the base. After each gaming exercise was completed, the amount of b2 water used in the scenario would be estimated using Interior's definition of b2.

The output of each gaming exercise would therefore be a display of benefits and an estimate of how much b2 water had been used. If a combination of assets were found which supplied substantial benefits for each interest group, this approach might be an important step towards a resolution without resolving the b2 issue. If that were not the case, the approach would at least help identify the most promising combinations.

Before one of those combinations of assets could be selected as part of the recommended framework, it would have to be reevaluated with the selected definition of b2. That would be necessary because b2 might use up so much of the existing flexibility in the CVP/SWP system that the benefits that could otherwise be derived from a set of assets would be diminished.