

DESCRIPTION OF
COORDINATION-INTEGRATION ISSUES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM
October 4, 1999

This paper expands on the list of coordination-integration issues. It describes the issues in more detail. These issues are contentious. Even the method of describing issues is contentious. Therefore, this paper should not be regarded as a definitive statement on the issues but rather as a basis for discussions on how the issues should be framed.

Several of the most important issues (including B(2), Trinity River, ESA biological opinions and take management, and Level IV refuge supplies) are similar. They can be expressed as two questions:

Will the aspect of the issue affecting water supplies be considered as part of process of developing the EWA and Stage 1 Water Management Strategy?

If the answer is yes, the second question is:

For each issue, will its specifics affecting water supply (including specific requirements and their schedule for implementation) be considered as part of the process of developing the EWA and Stage 1 Water Management Strategy or will these specifics be the sole purview of the agency administering the requirements?

These questions can also be framed as:

Is the issue an outlier to the EWA/WMS process?

If not, are its specific requirements open for consideration in the EWA/WMS process?

This class of issues might be referred to as "standard form" issues.

CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT IMPROVEMENT ACT (CVPIA) ISSUES

VAMP

Does VAMP water count as EWA water?

Should VAMP continue as planned, or should it be modified to allow higher export rates to see if there is a relationship between survival and higher rates of export?

Regardless of the answer to this question, how should export curtailments required by VAMP be made up and under what circumstances?

B(2)

Should b(2) be a subject of the WMDT process?

If so, should the specific actions of b(2) and the effect on water supplies be considered in the WMDT process?

Should decisions on the use of B(2) water be integrated with decisions on the use of EWA water? If so, how?

Level IV Refuge Supplies

Should the shortage provisions of these supplies be one subject of discussion in the WMDT process?

Do Level IV purchases count as EWA water?

How are these purchases coordinated with the EWA process?

Restoration Fund

The issue is whether this fund and similar ones directed at ecosystem improvements will be administered separately or in an integrated or coordinated way.

If they are to be administered in a coordinated or integrated way, how will this occur?

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACTS ISSUES

Biological Opinions

Will the biological opinions be a subject of the WMDT discussions?

If they are, will the specific requirements contained in those opinions be a subject of WMDT discussions?

What assurances associated with ESA will be provided to water users?

Take Management

Will take management be a subject of the WMDT discussions?

If it is, are the specific take management requirements the subject of WMDT discussions?

Recovery Assurance

How can ESA agencies be assured that actions necessary for recovery of listed species will be carried out?

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PLAN (ERP) ISSUES

ERP Water

Are the flows recommended in the ERP counted toward the EWA?

Can these flows be re-diverted for ag/urban water supply?

Will decisions on the use of ERP water be integrated with decisions on the use of EWA water? If so, how?

ERP Habitat Program

Will the biological benefits of the ERP be merged with the EWA benefits in determining the biological sufficiency of the WMDT recommendations?

Will there be features of the ERP that can be implemented to offset water project environmental effects?

If the answer to the first question is conceptually yes, how will the relative benefits of different types of measures be estimated, given technical uncertainties in predicting effects?

Category III Program

Will this program be merged with the ERP and other similar funding programs?

Will the biological benefits of the Category III be merged with the EWA benefits in determining the biological sufficiency of the WMDT recommendations?

TRINITY RIVER FLOW AUGMENTATION ISSUES

Will this program be the subject of discussion in the WMDT?

If so, will the specifics of how this program is implemented be the subject of discussions in the WMDT?

CEQA/NEPA COMPLIANCE ISSUE

How can this compliance be assured for the recommendations developed by the WMDT?

WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY ISSUES

CalFed Transfer Program

What is the relationship between the CalFed transfer program and water transfers for the EWA?

What will be the effect of the ERP, EWA, and CVPIA transfer programs on the market for transferred water for ag/urban use? How will adverse effects be addressed?

CalFed Efficiency Program

What effects will the CalFed efficiency program have on Stage 1 ag/urban water needs and how will these effects be incorporated into the discussions of the WMDT?

If the EWA wants to "purchase efficiency," how will this efficiency relate to the CalFed efficiency program?

CalFed Water Quality Program

What will be the effect of EWA operations and other environmental programs on water quality?

If adverse effects occur, how will they be addressed?

Will the environmental benefits of the water quality program be merged with the EWA benefits in determining the biological sufficiency of the WMDT recommendations?

How will tradeoffs between export quantity and quality be incorporated in WMDT recommendations?

404 Permits

How will the WMDT recommendations be assured of 404 permits?

Integrated Storage Investigation (ISI)

Will implementation steps of the ISI be part of the program that the WMDT will recommend?

If so, which specific steps will be included?

STATE/FEDERAL WATER PROJECT OPERATIONS AND THE OPS GROUP ISSUES

How will the EWA and Water Management Strategy be coordinated or integrated with operation of the projects? How will day-to-day decisions on EWA operations be made and how will those decisions relate to operations of the projects?

What happens if conflicts arise?

Will the Ops Group have a role in operating the EWA? If so, what will that role be?

SWRCB HEARINGS ISSUES

How can the recommendations of the WMDT be coordinated with the results of the SWRCB hearings?

Should the SWRCB consider the recommendations of the WMDT? If so, how would this occur?

SOUTH DELTA IMPROVEMENTS ISSUES

Will the specifics and schedule of South Delta Improvements be a subject of discussions in the WMDT process?

If so, how will these discussions relate to the ongoing CalFed effort on the South Delta Program?