
Environmental Water Account Progress

Quinn/Spear Workgroup
February 23, 1999



What Decisions are Needed?

A partial list:

1. Default operational rules
2. Sharing future export/storage capacity increases
3. Sharing of pumping above default rules
4. Environmental priorities for existing facilities
5. Decision making authority
6. Regulatory certainty
7. Who pays
8. Carryover of EWA from year to year
9. Other uses of ecosystem water
10. Initial funding and amount and type of EWA



DNCT Focus Areas

- How do we put an EWA together?
 - What size and mix of assets in the EWA?
 - What are ways for obtaining EWA water?
 - What is the accounting process?
- How do we manage EWA water?
- What are benefits and impacts of use of EWA?
- What are implementation issues?



Ways for obtaining EWA Water

- Varying E/I ratio
- Purchase water or options
- Share the yield from new facilities (e.g. JPOD, expanded Banks...)
- Purchase water supply use efficiency (e.g., low flow toilets)



Varying E/I ratio

1. Propose specific rules for Varying
2. Determine water produced by varying
3. Determine best hydrological predictors of increases in water availability
4. Determine the benefits/impacts to E/I changes on fish



Purchase Water or Options

- Is being tested by the 99 Operations team.



Share the Yield of New Facilities

- As new facilities or actions are taken to increase diversions, EWA will acquire certain rights and control of improvements.
 - JPOD
 - Expanded Banks
 - Delta Storage
- Developing examples to provide a starting point for modeling



JPOD Example for Modeling

- Whenever water would be exported under JPOD, EWA would control a certain percentage.
- USBR would be obligated to provide conveyance as far as San Louis.



Purchase Water Supply Use Efficiency

- Modeling group is investigating how the water saved might be use in reference to the Delta.

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How to Increase Fish Populations

- Evaluate the overall level of fishery protection which would likely be achieved from a range of prescriptive standards/EWA combinations.
- Describe the range of scientific supporting hypotheses for the EWA and other CALFED fishery actions.

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Biological Group Activities

1. Define problems which need to be solved (entrainment, ecosystem protection, fish guidance,..) and how important each is to the total populations.
2. List all possible EWA actions to address problems (E/I, X2, Vamp,..).
3. Determine how effective is the action in solving the problem.
4. Determine the other potential ways to solve the problem.



Tech Teams

Salmonid

salmon and steelhead

- Pat Brandes
- Sheila Greene
- Carl Halupka
- Serge Birk
- Jim White
- Jim Buell
- Bill Kier

NonSalmonid

striped bass, delta smelt, splittail

- Dale Sweetnam
- Randy Baxter
- Bruce Herbold
- Chuck Hanson
- Mike Fris
- Randy Bailey
- Bill Bennett



Tech Teams short term goals (Apr 99)

- Preliminary recommendations need for the EIR/EIS
- Report on where they agree, disagree or just don't know on fishery issues.



Tech Teams long term goals (Oct 99)

- Further analysis to resolve differences
- What should be done to get more agreement and reduce unknowns in Stage 1
- Develop a report for peer review on how to apply EWA and other in short and long term.



Issues

- Need environmental stakeholder biologists on the Tech Teams.
- Need commitment of agency staff.
- Can we focus Tech Teams work on Salmon, steelhead, delta smelt, and striped bass and not add additional measures for Splittail?

