

DRAFT

Long-Term Planning for Drought Contingencies

Description

Contingency planning for future droughts consists of developing plans to accommodate future water shortages. Such planning may include activities to temporarily or permanently reduce demand for water and activities to develop emergency supplies of water. Contingency plans would be developed to accommodate various durations and intensities of drought.

This category includes the following actions:

- increase water storage capacities at user locations,
- establish incentives for long-term planning,
- conduct Integrated Resources Planning,
- establish incentives for long-term conservation, and
- develop alternate supplies for drought situations.

Purpose

Contingency planning for future droughts could improve the predictability of water supplies during both short- and long-term drought periods, and could increase the efficiency of use of available supplies. Such planning could also help to reduce the need for exports from the Delta and river systems during periods of extended drought, thereby reducing detrimental effects on aquatic ecosystems.

Constraints

Creation of new or increased water storage facilities could have direct impacts on the environment, and increased water transfers may result in increased third-party impacts in the water transfer areas. Implementing this action could be costly to local agencies because it would require the creation of mechanisms and infrastructure that would be used only infrequently.

Linkages to Other CALFED Action Categories

Long-term drought contingency planning can be linked with actions to manage demand (e.g., water conservation, water reclamation, water pricing, desalination, and land retirement) and with integration of land use and water supply planning to provide better supply and demand management coordination. This category can be made more effective when linked with establishment of an institution for long-term water supply management, a category providing the institutional basis for long-term planning to occur.