

DRAFT

Integration of Land Use and Water Supply Planning

Description

Currently, water supply and land use planning are conducted by separate agencies at the local level (most land use planning occurs at the local level in California). No coordination of water supply and land use planning is required by law and, consequently, these two efforts are usually undertaken independently. State laws could be changed to require a closer coordination of these two types of planning as part of the local land use planning process. For example, prior to adopting a general plan, local jurisdictions could be required to determine whether sufficient water supplies are available to reliably serve the uses identified in the land use plan. In addition, local jurisdictions could be required to request an assessment of water availability from the local water agency as part of the environmental impact report process. Conversely, water providers could be prohibited from annexing any additional land unless sufficient water supplies were available to reliably serve the new areas.

This category includes the following actions:

- coordinate land uses with water supplies,
- encourage local determination of supplies available, and
- encourage local assessment of water supply reliability.

Purpose

Integrating land use and water supply planning could help reduce water supply shortages at the local level and reduce costs associated with such shortages. In addition, such integration could help reduce demands in areas where water resources are limited, reduce the need for new Delta diversions, or reduce the demand for new water sources and new water supply projects. An integrated process could also allow for water to be set aside for environmental purposes as part of the planning process.

Constraints

One problem associated with integrating land use and water supply availability is that the basis on which to judge water supply availability is not always clear. The existence of a legal water supply contract may be viewed as availability even though the infrastructure and perhaps the water supply may not be available. Another problem is that integrating land use and water supply planning would result in *de facto* growth control by using water availability as a determining factor for land use

planning. A potential for uneven application of these decisions is possible. For example, the growth of one jurisdiction may be limited by water supply availability but a neighboring jurisdiction may not be, even though they have the same water source, simply because the latter has better infrastructure or a firmer water supply contract. In addition, issues may arise regarding the application of this action to agencies that rely on groundwater, as groundwater basins typically supply many jurisdictions.

Linkages to Other CALFED Action Categories

Because environmental needs can be built into the planning process, the integration of land use and water supply planning can be linked to acquisition of long-term water supplies for fish and wildlife. In addition, the integration of land use and water supply planning would be an important tool in long-term planning for drought contingencies.