

**California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee
Water Supply Subcommittee March 9, 2005 Meeting Summary
Bonderson Building Hearing Room
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

Introductions

The following subcommittee members and alternates attended the meeting: Steve Hall, Jerry Meral, Tom Clark, Alan Zepp, Randall Neudeck, Bernice Sullivan, Lloyd Fryer, and Richard Denton

The meeting focused on the following agenda items:

- 1) Upper San Joaquin Update
- 2) North Delta Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Improvement Program
- 3) Program Plans
 - a) Surface Storage
 - b) Conveyance
 - c) Water Transfers
 - d) Environmental Water Account
 - e) Water Quality

1) Upper San Joaquin Update - Presenter: Brian Zewe (Reclamation)

This presentation (see the presentation) focused on the Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation. The basis for this investigation is in the CALFED ROD. The presentation reviewed the current Friant Dam and Millerton Lake project and described the six options retained for feasibility studies (studies which began in October 2003). Benefits included in the presentation were restoration, water quality (including exchange opportunities among the Friant Water Users Authority, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and the SWP), water supply reliability, and additional benefits from flood control and hydropower generation. An initial alternatives information report (IAIR) will be published on May 13, which will include a report and three major appendices; a public workshop will be held on April 13 from 9:00 a.m. to noon in Modesto. The presentation included the alternative formulation approach and schedule.

Comments:

A member of the audience commented that it is encouraging that the investigation is determining the benefits of restoration; he also clarified that water quality exchange is not the same as selling water but is rather done to achieve supply reliability. A member of the subcommittee commented on the investigation's long schedule; staff responded that this long schedule is in part due to funding. A member of the audience next asked if there is funding to meet the schedule in the presentation; staff responded that funding comes year by year, and the subcommittee clarified with staff that the schedule assumes adequate funding from the next fiscal year onward. A member of the audience asked if the investigation had made cost allocations to the various benefits; staff responded that it was not at a point to do so. A member of the subcommittee asked about using additional recharge capacity. Staff responded that they are, along with DWR; this specifically includes recharge capacity in the first reach of the San Joaquin River, which will be part of DWR's report. A member of the audience next asked about using flood flows for other benefits. A member of the subcommittee asked if the investigation takes into account climate change; staff responded that they are working on developing better forecasting. The subcommittee clarified with

staff that the tables in the presentation are for storage, not yield. The subcommittee observed that the schedule includes much work in the two years between the IAIR and plan formulation report; staff observed that conducting analysis at new project sites takes more time and that restoration must now be considered as a new project purpose.

2) North Delta Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Improvement Program - Presenter: Gwen Knittweis (DWR)

This presentation (see the presentation) covered project locations on specific Delta islands, the way by which islands flood, various restoration benefits and project options, stakeholders and the cooperative process, the balancing of tradeoffs and adaptive management, program financing, and next steps.

Comments:

A member of the subcommittee asked if a rearing benefit for migrating salmon could be achieved; staff said that this benefit is one possible option. A member of the subcommittee asked about the effects resulting from the production of organic carbon; staff responded that there is not yet any developed science for this problem. The subcommittee next asked to be placed on the mailing list for the EIR. A member of the subcommittee asked about funding the program from its beneficiaries; staff responded that they are working with stakeholders to quantify beneficiaries. The subcommittee and staff clarified that there is a co-equal benefit between flood control and ecosystem restoration. A member of the audience commented that funding must go through the CALFED process and that the program will need to be given a higher priority if it is to move forward. The co-chairs next asked by what authority staff is making land use decisions by way of providing flood control. A member of the subcommittee asked about flooding certain islands in the fall with freshwater in a fish-friendly way; staff responded that this could be a "fringe" benefit.

Action Item:

- Staff will add the subcommittee members to the mailing list for the distribution of the EIR.

3) Program Plans

a) Surface Storage -- Presenters: Steve Roberts (DWR)

DWR and Reclamation have initiated the environmental/feasibility study process on all five storage projects. An updated progress report on the storage projects is anticipated to be completed in the next two to four weeks. The presentation (see the presentation) also covered the status and accomplishments of conjunctive management/groundwater projects and surface storage. It also included information regarding the schedule and funding (including remaining Proposition 50 funding in the next two fiscal years).

Comments:

The subcommittee and staff clarified that the funding for the Los Vaqueros Expansion shown in the presentation is now spread over two years.

b) Conveyance -- Presenter: Don Kurosaka (DWR)

Mr. Kurosaka began his presentation by stating that the projects in Old River, Rock Slough, Franks Tract, and San Luis have moved to other CALFED programs. The presentation (see the presentation) then covered the status and funding of remaining projects.

Comments:

A member of the subcommittee asked where the authority comes from to enlarge the Intertie; staff responded that this authority comes from the federal CALFED bill. A member of the audience next asked what CALFED programs are doing to address environmental justice issues with this program; staff stated that the capacity to address these issues exists within each project's planning documents.

c) Water Transfers -- Presenter: Dean Reynolds (DWR)

This presentation (see the presentation) began by stating that the implementing agencies are DWR, Reclamation, and the State Water Resources Control Board. Program activities include increasing the availability of existing facilities, decreasing transaction costs through permit streamlining, and increasing the availability of market information. The presentation next discussed the potential of legislative changes in Assembly Bill 580 (which regards the use of public conveyance facilities for use by others); another bill has been introduced in the Assembly to codify the Environmental Water Account (EWA).

Comments:

The subcommittee and audience both expressed concern about the overestimation or the uncertainty of available water. A member of the audience also expressed concern about the program's ability to address environmental justice.

d) Environmental Water Account -- Presenter: Teresa Geimer (DWR)

Ms. Geimer's briefing covered the budget and schedule of the EWA.

Comments:

A member of the subcommittee asked about the transition to the long-term EWA; staff responded that this will take place by the end of 2006 but that it may be the end of 2007 before the environmental document is in place. A member of the subcommittee asked why there are short-term and long-term EWA's; staff responded that having a short-term EWA until a long-term EWA is operating is a compromise to avoid having only a yearly EWA until a long-term program is operating. Next, the subcommittee and staff clarified that EWA will look at new surface storage only in the long-term. Finally, a subcommittee member commented that it is a bad idea to use bond funding for yearly EWA operations.

e) Water Quality -- Presenter: Lisa Holm (Authority)

This presentation (see the presentation) covered the program's basic structure, project and program priorities, and existing challenges (both the funding disconnect between priorities and funding sources and technical challenges). The report focused on the cross program relationship between the DWQ and the WSS programs. The presentation next covered current priority projects and current and future funding needs.

Comments:

The subcommittee and staff clarified that regional plans are created to develop plans, not to construct projects. The subcommittee and audience also asked if environmental water quality is being considered; staff responded that it will be discussed as a cross-coordination.

Public Comment:

There was no additional public comment.

Next meeting:

The next BDPAC Water Supply Subcommittee meeting will be in May. Requested agenda items include the Delta Improvements Package (including SDIP environmental documents), San Luis Low Point Improvement Project, and DWR Conjunctive Use Program.