



**California Department of Water Resources
Climate Change Technical Advisory Group**

9 am to 4 pm, March 30, 2012

901 P Street, Bonderson Hearing Room, 1st floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

MEETING NOTES

CCTAG Charter Discussion

Draft Charter presented by John Andrew, DWR.

Members wanted open and flexible approach, as some can give more time, others less. Leave it up to members to pick up projects relative to their specialty. Some would like to see more technical and scientific discussions this time. They would like a more interactive approach than previous CCTAG; more open with greater interfacing with other members, as well as various DWR staff/programs. Comments were also made that the CCTAG should have more asked of it this time, not just a rubber stamp approval. The group needs to be more involved in earlier discussions, when topics are early in process.

Many panel members are already in the early stages with other state projects and those may be useful to the state. One member felt studies taking place in California are different from the studies taking place in other countries, perhaps due to perceptions. Links can be shared to other countries' methodologies.

CCTAG decisions need to be logical to public, and should advocate local integration of climate change policies. Flood plain management is always at the local level and we need to facilitate better management of flood plains. Climate Change policy gets translated into CEQA/NEPA documents, so make those practical and useful.

Climate models are getting better but are still flawed and we do still need to consider natural variations in weather.

Some members want to hear more about the research that the group is doing, a tight summary of what the models say and where the loopholes are. Water planners would have interest in projects CCTAG members and DWR are all working on, and key specific issues.

Charter comments will be reviewed by John Andrew, and the Charter revisited at next full CCTAG.

CCTAG Scope Discussion

Draft Scope (Framework) presented by Andrew Schwarz, DWR.

CCTAG initial task will be to provide guidance to DWR on climate change scenario and approaches selection. Discussion was held on various approaches the Department has taken, and what programs and projects use, or will need to use climate change information. The CCTAG reviewed several types of models and planning horizons for water management.

Panelists commented on the need for data gap identification, not using a one-size-fits-all approach, technical considerations for incorporating GCM or downscaled climate data, keeping total number of scenarios low for public understanding, sea level rise needs to be addressed, the need to find a way to pick through the numerous cc studies, and address the actual science underlying model attributes.

Scope comments will be reviewed by Andrew Schwarz, and the Scope revisited at next full CCTAG.

Climate Change Scenarios Discussion

Open Discussion, moderated by Dr. Michael Anderson, CA State Climatologist

Following review of methodologies used in the past and currently available, the panel inquired about scenario validation, selection criteria, the various methodologies and approaches desired by DWR project and program managers, flexibility of scenario selection, and data availability restrictions.

Detailed discussion took place on scenario selection, model tendencies, model climatology match with California climate, and weeding out those that don't perform well historically or represent past climates well. Models are needed that provide daily data, rather than monthly, and provide higher spatial resolution. Members discussed the pros and cons of statistical and dynamical downscaling, and the need to carry the analysis all the way through to operations results to see if these two methods yield important differences in operational results, and the need to determine which will be better for the types of projects that DWR conducts.

Scale issues are to be tackled, including its impact on scenario selection and thus model skill.

The topic of handling extreme scenarios including severe droughts; potentially using paleoclimate reconstruction or other approaches, would be good to include in a future discussion.

Next Steps

A CCTAG Climate Change Scenarios subgroup will be formed to address scenario selection for the California Water Plan. Meeting webinar(s) will take place prior to the next full CCTAG, dates TBD.

Next full CCTAG meeting will be held Friday, May 11, 2012 in Sacramento, CA.

Public Comment

DWR needs to be systematic about what the decision needs are.

Meeting concludes at 4pm.