

California Department of Water Resources NEWS

February 13, 1998

CONTACTS:

- Jeanine Jones (916) 653-3937 jeanine@water.ca.gov
 - Ted Thomas (916) 653-2639 tthomas@water.ca.gov
-

DWR to Hold Hearings in Southern California on Water Supply Outlook

SACRAMENTO -- The Department of Water Resources will hold public hearings in Southern California next week on a new edition of the California Water Plan that forecasts a serious statewide water shortage early in the next century unless a variety of options are exercised.

A hearing on the California Water Plan update, also known as Bulletin 160-98, will be held in Rancho Mirage on Tuesday, February 17. DWR officials will review Bulletin 160-98 and accept comments on the document at 4 p.m. in Desert Suites 1, 2, and 3 of the Rancho Las Palmas Marriott Resort at 41000 Bob Hope Drive.

Two more hearings on Bulletin 160-98 will be held in Ontario on Wednesday, February 18. These hearings are scheduled for 3 pm. and 6:30 p.m. in the Lake Arrowhead Room of the Doubletree Hotel at 222 N Vineyard Avenue in Ontario.

The updated Water Plan foresees a significant shortfall between water supply and demand by the year 2020 unless substantial water conservation and development measures are taken.

California's continuing population increase is the major factor in the water supply projections. The state's population is expected to jump from 32 million to 47.5 million people by 2020. In addition, increases in water for environmental needs are expected.

By 2020, the water shortfall without major conservation and development measures is predicted to be approximately 2.9 million acre-feet in an average water year, and 7 million acre-feet in a drought year.

"Californians cannot afford to sustain future water shortages of this magnitude," the Water Plan states. "The magnitude of potential shortages, especially drought year shortages, demonstrates the urgency of taking action."

The Water Plan which is updated every five years, quantifies how projects and programs now being planned by water agencies statewide would reduce future water shortages. Local agencies provide approximately 70 percent of California's water supply.

###

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs. The State Water Project provides water to two-thirds of California's population.

For more on-line information, see [Find DWR Info](#) or return to the [DWR California Water Page](#)