Water-Energy Sub-Team, Climate Action Team
Questions for State Water Plan Advisory Committee
March 20, 2008

ALL GROUPS – ROUND 1 - Climate Action Team Approach

Thinking about strategies to reduce Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) –

1) How promising and/or feasible do the strategies associated with the Water Sector (including water end-use) appear?

2) Describe any other water-related actions that could have significant water supply, water quality, and/or greenhouse gas reduction co-benefits?

GROUP 1 – Strategy I: Increasing Water Recycling

Thinking about Water Recycling -

1) In addition to requiring recycling plans at wastewater treatment facilities and development of the described recycled water programs, are there other recycling measures that could achieve greater or additional energy savings?

2) Describe the barriers and challenges you see to achieving the WET CAT proposed measures. What measures could be put in place to improve chances for success?

3) Water recycling provides additional water supply and reduces energy use in many, but not all situations. Please describe other noteworthy benefits associated with water recycling you believe should be recognized.

4) Landscape irrigation is a prominent use of recycled water. Are you aware of other innovative uses of recycled water that should be considered? Please suggest additional ideas/uses of recycled water that should be explored in the future.

GROUP 2 - Strategy II: End Use Water Conservation and Efficiency

1) What are the major barriers to greater implementation of Best Management Practices for urban conservation? How can the barriers be overcome?

2) AB 1420 requires urban water suppliers implement demand management measures in order to be eligible for water management grants. How adequate is this approach for achieving increased conservation? Please describe additional incentives or disincentives that could improve chances for success.

3) Adoption of a new Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance, upgrades to the CIMIS network, and development of efficiency standards for irrigation controllers and spray devices are being recommended. What are additional landscape water conservation measures that should be considered?

4) What actions should be taken to ensure that appropriate conservation measures are implemented by agricultural water users? Should actions that result in net reduction in water use receive higher priority than actions that improve in-stream flow or water quality? Why?

Regarding evaluation, measurement and verification protocol for energy-related savings and GHG reductions associated with end use water conservation and efficiency

5) What are the key elements that should be included in determining effectiveness? Should evaluation of conservation focus on implementation of measures or quantification of conserved water? How can we overcome uncertainties and challenges associated with savings measurements (both water and energy) and GHG reductions?

GROUP 3 - Strategy III: Lowering the Energy Intensity of the State's Water Systems

1) What are the major barriers to increasing the energy efficiency of current water/wastewater delivery and treatment systems?

2) What types of assistance are needed to help managers/operators increase the energy efficiency of their delivery and water/wastewater treatment systems? What, if any, existing assistance program have you used? Please give examples.

3) Recognizing a need to maintain water quality and/or deliverability, what are key actions or measures that have been implemented or could be implemented to reduce energy demand in the conveyance, treatment or distribution portions of water systems?

4) What criteria should be considered when deciding which actions to take to reduce water system related energy demand or greenhouse gas emissions? Should any criteria receive greater priority than others?

5) What elements or assumptions must be included in a statewide evaluation, measurement and verification protocol for the lowering of the energy intensity of the state's water systems (large and small)?

GROUP 4 - Strategy IV: Increase Renewable Energy Production

1) Describe project(s) you are familiar with that generate energy from renewable resources at water or water end-user facilities? To what extent have you investigated renewable resource development related to your area of interest?

2) Do you see a need for incentives to develop renewable projects? To what extent do you believe those working in your area of interest are aware of incentives offered by the California Energy Commission for wind generation and by the California Public Utilities Commission for solar and biomass generation? With any of the incentives, do you see need for changes in program structure?

3) Please describe any existing regulations that are helpful or promising for enabling energy generation from renewable resources. Do any regulatory barriers prevent those working in your area of interest from advancing projects to generate energy from renewable resources?

4) Given that solar and wind energy resources are only available intermittently, to what extent would those working in your area of interest be willing to develop generation from these resources in order to reduce—rather than replace—dependence on the electric grid?

5) What criteria do those working in your area of interest have for determining whether a project is technically feasible? In considering technical-feasibility issues involving renewable generation, to what extent is state assistance needed?