



Action Item: Update on California Water Plan Update 2013 and coordination with CWC activities related to methods for quantifying public benefits for storage

Background

Kamyar Guivetchi, acting Deputy Director, Integrated Water Management, will provide an overview of the California Water Plan Update 2013 process and opportunities to support the work of the California Water Commission.

The California Water Plan describes statewide and regional water conditions and a strategic plan for integrated water management. Its objectives and related actions, resource management strategies, and analytical tools provide a framework for water and resource managers, planners, legislators, government, industrial, and Tribal representatives and the public to consider options and make decisions regarding California's water future. The Plan, which is updated every five years presents basic data and information on California's water resources including water supply evaluations and assessments of agricultural, urban, and environmental water uses.

The Department of Water Resources has established several committees to guide the Water Plan Update process. The State Agency Steering Committee including representatives from more than 25 state agencies, a Public Advisory Committee, and a Tribal Advisory Committee are collaborating on a comprehensive Water Plan Update 2013 that strategically integrates California's water supply, water use efficiency, water quality, flood management planning and environmental stewardship, as well as respective agency missions and goals. The group holds regular meetings throughout the year.

Staff believes that the State Agency Steering Committee can assist the Water Commission in collaborating with the Department of Fish and Game, the State Water Resources Control Board and other agencies, and receiving feedback through a public process on the regulations for the quantification and management of the public benefits of water storage projects.

§ 79740. (c) Projects shall be selected by the commission through a competitive public process that ranks potential projects based on expected return for public investments as measured by the magnitude of the public benefits provided, pursuant to criteria established under this chapter.

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§ 79744. In consultation with the Department of Fish and Game, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the department, the commission shall develop and adopt, by regulation, methods for quantification and management of public benefits described in Section 79743 by December 15, 2012. The regulations shall include the priorities and relative environmental value of ecosystem benefits as provided by the Department of Fish and Game and the priorities and relative environmental value of ecosystem benefits as provided by the State Water Resources Control Board.

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