



Western Sierra Mountain Counties Overlay

*Prepared for:
California Water Plan Public Advisory Committee*



March 30, 2011

Purpose of Water Plan Overlays

Enable planners and decision-makers to study and recommend actions/policies in areas where:

- 1) water management strategies and actions in one area affect much of remainder of the State;

AND

- 2) common water management conditions, issues and integrated planning opportunities span more than one of the 10 hydrologic regions identified in Water Plan Update 2009

Why Western Sierra Overlay

Statewide Significance:

- Source water supply (average annual western Sierra snowpack = 11 Million Acre-feet)
- Source water quality
- Concentration of forestry and other natural resources
- Recreation
- 60% of the State's surface storage reservoir capacity
- 80% of hydroelectric generation capacity

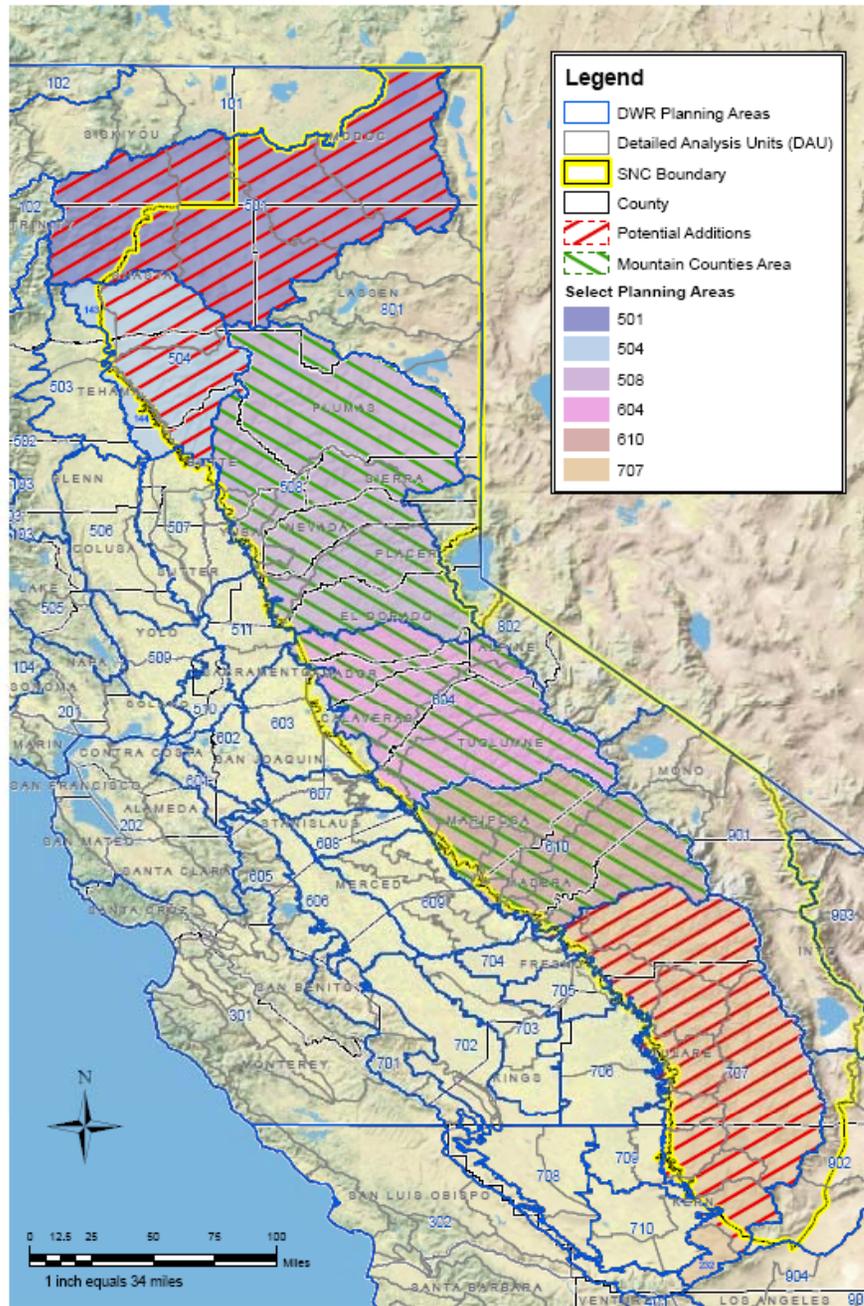
Common Attributes:

- Limited groundwater storage in fractured rock formations
- High proportions of under-served communities
- Relatively economic development alternatives/ employment base
- Land use issues associated with public lands and development pressures
- Sparsely populated

Expansion Areas

- Upper Sacramento River Watersheds
 - Parts of Shasta, Tehama and Siskiyou Counties
- Southern slope of Cascade Range
- Parts of Modoc plateau
 - NW portions of Lassen County
 - Portion of Modoc County
- Kern River Watershed
 - Eastern Fresno and eastern Tulare Counties
 - Central Kern County

Western Sierra Overlay Area



Questions for Public AC

- (1) **Alternative boundary recommendations?**
- (2) **What are the expected and unintended consequences?**