

## Water Plan Regional Workshop Summary – Red Bluff, CA

### OVERVIEW

The 2009 update of the California Water Plan, Bulletin 160 (Water Plan) is based on a collaborative approach that engages a wide range of stakeholders and the public in a variety of ways. The Water Plan team is receiving recommendations from a standing Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from 18 State agencies, and an Advisory Committee, with 39 representatives from organizations representing statewide interests. The involvement of regional and local interests is brought in through a series of public workshops conducted in each hydrologic region.

Each workshop consists of three major presentations to describe: the Water Plan, Regional Reports, and regional approach. Immediately following each presentation, workshop participants engage in brainstorming discussions in a small group format. A workshop for the Sacramento River hydrologic region was held on August 23, 2007 in Red Bluff, CA. Copies of the workshop presentations, handouts, and materials are available on the Water Plan website at [www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/materials](http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/materials).

A brief recap of the presentations is provided in the following paragraphs and the remainder of this document provides a summary of the small group discussions. Flip charts were used to record ideas generated during the discussions and transcripts of the flip charts are located at the end of this document.

Kamyar Guivetchi, Program Manager for Update 2009, presented an overview of the Water Plan Update process. This presentation described the approach and structure for the 2005 Update, as well as the process for the 2009 Update – including meeting schedule and opportunities for involvement, key activities and work products, and related content. The major sections of the Update include: data on water supply, use, and quality; water planning scenarios; water management strategies; Regional Reports; and reference materials and technical reports. Following this presentation, workshop participants were asked to identify additional items that should be considered for inclusion in the Water Plan.

In the second presentation, Glen Pearson, Chief of the Northern District for the Department of Water Resources (DWR), reviewed the Regional Reports for the Sacramento River Hydrologic Region. Each regional report describes regional data and hydrologic conditions, regional challenges and accomplishments, and regional water planning efforts. The discussion related to this presentation asked for suggestions to improve the content of the Regional Report for the Sacramento River region. Participants were also asked to identify and provide contact information for good sources in obtaining and verifying regional data sets.

The final presentation, by Paul Dabbs, Project Manager for Update 2009, recapped the regional approach proposed for updating the Water Plan. The approach uses regional workshops, an annual regional forum, and an annual plenary session to bring in local perspectives, issues, and concerns into the Update process. The ensuing discussion asked for recommendations to: improve the proposed approach; encourage the continuation of regional dialogue on water management; and identify others who need to be part of the regional conversation on water.

The workshops also included brief presentations on related statewide water initiatives, including the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grants program, Flood Safe program, and Statewide Water Analysis Network (SWAN). The SWAN is an open forum of technical expertise that serves as a technical advisory group to Update 2009.

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### ***DISCUSSION ON WATER PLAN CONTENT***

After hearing the presentation on the approach, content, and structure of Update 2009, workshop participants were asked to brainstorm other topics that should be considered for inclusion in the Water Plan. Workshop attendees were specifically asked to think about regional issues and concerns that might benefit from additional attention. Several key themes that emerged during the group reports included:

- a. coordinate ALL planning with water planning (floodplain management, watershed management, growth, land use, general plans); clarify State, federal, local, NGO roles
- b. more emphasis on interaction between surface water, groundwater, and conjunctive use; better understanding of groundwater systems; protect groundwater levels and quality
- c. commitment to environmental water, including restoration and protection of wetlands and wildlife resources; strengthen IRWM restoration component; protect upper watersheds
- d. water quality (ag impacts, improve impaired waters, link water quality with storage)
- e. education of regional water sources, storage, use – people need to understand issues
- f. collaboration between agencies, consolidation of regional water management/oversight; ensure that addressing statewide issues to not redirect negative impacts upstream
- g. include tribal water issues, including water rights and data sharing
- h. supply: new supply analysis requirements for developments of 500 units or less
- i. recognize, address, and reconcile regulatory implications for project review and permitting (e.g. reuse, water transfers, conjunctive use); increased treatment for reuse
- j. improve the water transfer process; consider third party impacts
- k. additional storage is needed, both surface and groundwater
- l. stronger conservation and greater statewide consistency; minimum conservation requirements for areas receiving imports; protect those who already conserve water

### ***DISCUSSION ON REGIONAL REPORT CONTENT***

The discussion groups suggested a wide range of additional topics that might be included in the Regional Reports:

- a. regional data:
  - integrate with land use planning and General Plan updates and amendments
  - integrate with other agency plans (COMP study, CVPIA, ag waivers, Basin Plans, Forest Management Plans, timber harvest plans)
  - clarify roles and responsibilities for government and non-government regional entities
  - return map/graphic from 1995 Water Plan
  - links to regional air quality limitations/regulations, especially regarding energy use, population growth, and climate change
  - privatization of public water (irrigation districts)
  - describe surface water-groundwater interactions; look at interactions with transfers; describe groundwater systems – including recharge zones
  - discuss storage and area of origin rights
  - document resource values, especially those unique to Sacramento Valley region

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- b. water supply/demand/quality data:
  - install additional instream and rain gauges to better track climate change impacts
  - track groundwater use by private pumpers (e.g. AB3030 participants)
  - clarify definition of imported and exported water across regional boundaries
  - evaluated water supplies for environmental purposes, including instream flows
  - include specifics on Shasta Dam, CVP, SWP, QSA, groundwater, etc.
  - include impacts of Smart Growth initiatives on water use and agricultural/urban balance (see SACOG, Yolo County, etc.)
  - potential changes in Delta water/conveyance infrastructure
  - report annually on change in point where the Sacramento River moves from “gaining” to “losing”
  - include impaired water bodies – TMDLs
  - water quality should discuss fuels reduction and catastrophic fire prevention
  - clarify sources of information and provide opportunities for collaboration
  - regional water models need to be able to analyze local project-specific impacts
  - include baseline data that all interest groups can use; provide useful, functional, transferable data to local agencies and the public can use and trust
- c. identify regional report challenges:
  - provide tools for educating and involving others in our region, including relationship of wells and septic systems
  - institutional challenges to transfers in region
  - equitable distribution of Prop 50 and Prop 84 funding within region
  - cracking down on illegal diversions; require real estate agents to disclose water rights constraints/laws
- d. resource management strategies:
  - protection of water quality, so no loss of resources (e.g. alluvial aquifer impacts)
  - landscaping with native drought-resistant plants
- e. regional planning:
  - in “Looking to the Future” include development growth trends
- f. other:
  - avoid alphabet soup – define terms and acronyms
  - provide a roadmap for establishing and integrating plans for water supply, water use, and water quality
  - increase certainty about water-decision making processes with objective and measurable goals and triggers
  - compare economic benefits (per acre-foot of water used) across regions and economic sectors (agriculture, municipal, industrial, etc.)
  - if IRWMPs are to be an implementing vehicle for the Water Plan and Flood Plans, the governing bodies need to be representative of regions

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### ***DISCUSSION ON REGIONAL APPROACH, OUTREACH, AND NETWORKING***

At the workshop, participants commended DWR for developing a good foundation for the regional approach. Additional strategies and contacts were suggested for successful regional outreach and involvement:

- a. process suggestions:
  - more specific information on what will be discussed, provide link to workbook
  - include public outreach via schools, civic organizations, etc. as part of process
  - need alternatives for contact beyond email in rural areas
  - for focus at meeting, explain what's in the process for an individual or agency
  - regional approach/format is good; concern: do smaller voices influence decisions and funding?
- b. evaluate representation:
  - AB 3030 organizations, groundwater users
  - leverage existing outreach and lists (IRWMPs, County Farm Bureaus, Resource Conservation Districts, rural county outreach programs, watershed groups)
  - include USFWS, USGS, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation
  - involve sub-regional efforts, local government, local/regional planning agencies
  - include: homeowner associations, local newspapers, Chambers of Commerce, civic organizations (Kiwanis, Rotary, etc.), association of realtors (Tehama), politicians (County Boards and staff) – add them to email list!, environmental organizations
  - UC education program
- c. regional follow-up:
  - provide a chance to review and respond to posted notes from meeting
  - have a blog website for concerns, associated webcast, interactive process
  - participants should take workbooks back to organizations for additional input
  - streamline grant application/review process, with realistic timelines for partnering
  - share attendance list; provide periodic updates

### ***CLOSING REMARKS***

At the close of the workshop, Kamyar Guivetchi expressed thanks to all who attended and participated in the session. A special thank you was extended to the Northern California Water Association and the Four-County region for hosting the workshop.

A final reminder was given to participants on contacts for the Water Plan: Tito Crevante is serving as the point of contact for regional coordination in the Northern District (the northern portion of the Sacramento Region). He can be contacted via email at [cervante@water.ca.gov](mailto:cervante@water.ca.gov) or by phone at (530) 529-7389. Pierre Stephens is the regional lead for the Central District of DWR (the southern portion of the Sacramento Region). Pierre can be contacted via email at [jstephe@water.ca.gov](mailto:jstephe@water.ca.gov) or by phone at (916) 651-0700. Paul Dabbs, project manager, provides general oversight for Update 2009 and can be contacted via email at [pdabbs@water.ca.gov](mailto:pdabbs@water.ca.gov) or by phone at (916) 653-5666.

**CWP Regional Workshop – Flip Chart Transcripts  
Sacramento River Hydrologic Region – Red Bluff, August 23, 2007**

**Table A**

*Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:*

- Tribal water issues
  - water rights
  - data sharing
- water transfer process – difficulties need to be researched
- agricultural water use, needs, issues
- strengthen water supply analysis requirements for developments of 500 units or less

*Suggestions regarding regional reports:*

- integration with General Plan updates and amendments
- groundwater use by private pumpers (e.g. AB3030 participants)
- regional education to all water users
- regional water models need to be able to analyze local project-specific impacts
- clarify definition of imported and exported water across regional boundaries
- work from local level up
- because of climate change, install additional stream and rain gauges

*Regional outreach and networking:*

- chance to review and respond to posted notes from meetings
- outreach to AB3030 organizations
- issues that were not on the agenda
- more specific information on what will be discussed at meetings
  - attach workbook to emails; post on website
- how will regional workshop notes be used?

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**Table B**

*Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:*

- identify barriers to collaboration between agencies (need something other than litigation to settle conflicts.... waste of tax dollars)
  - consolidated regional water management oversight
  - set up procedure to deal with these conflicts
- tear down firewalls between State and federal agencies (data, infrastructure, regulations)
- near-future scenarios?
- review of past scenarios
- what's an appropriate timeline?
  - 30 year (bonds)
  - Grandchildren's grandchildren
  - if too long, may have too many uncertainties to predict
- balance consideration of urban and agricultural water use efficiency

*Suggestions regarding regional reports:*

Top issues:

- map graphic from 1995 Water Plan returned
- annual report on change of point where the Sacramento region moves from “gaining” to “losing”
- economic benefit per acre-foot of water used – compare between regions and economic sectors (agricultural, municipal and industrial, etc.)

Other issues:

- water supply and use – specifics
  - Central Valley Project
  - Settlement
  - State Water Project
  - Other RT
  - Groundwater
- challenge: institutional barriers to transfers in region
- Delta regional report should not contain the sentence, “The Delta is Broken”
- links to regional air quality limitations/regulations, especially energy use, population change, and climate change
- “smart growth” initiative impacts on water use and agricultural/urban balance (see SACOG, Yolo County, etc.)
- potential changes in Delta water/conveyance infrastructure

*Regional outreach and networking:*

- North Coast IRWMP good example of open communication and inclusive dialogue/development ([www.northcoastirwmp.net](http://www.northcoastirwmp.net)). Also, is a good example of governance with people not always included in IRWMPs
- have IRWMPs as basic units for sub-regions
- need more groundwater users
- have a blog website for concerns, associated webcast, interactive
- outreach to public via schools, civic groups, etc. as part of process

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**Table C**

*Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:*

- implement 2005 recommendations
- refine process for practicing IRWM
  - inter-regional communication/collaboration
- recognize resources among all regions and within regions
  - limitations
  - needs
- clarify State, federal, and local roles
- better address floodplain management and water planning
- better address and roles of NGOs
  - watershed management
- communication webcasts

*Suggestions regarding regional reports:*

- integration with general plans and land use planning
- education programs, so that people understand reasoning behind issues
- provide funding to show local stakeholders how to work together

*Regional outreach:*

- manageable and inclusive of regional players
- recognize sub-regional efforts
- access to (DWR) regional representatives (i.e. Tito)
- who's missing:
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - U.S. Geological Survey
  - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

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**Table D**

*Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:*

Top issues:

- report and water projections based on sound technical studies
- State needs comprehensive plan for data collection
  - all types, especially groundwater
  - should be elevated in Strategic Plan
- surface/groundwater conjunctive use programs are important

Other issues:

- adequate water supplies for restoration and protect Central Valley wetlands and waterfowl
- projections and plans to handle urban growth ins Sacramento Valley region are needed

*Suggestions regarding regional reports:*

- give water quality issues bigger regional role
- water supplies for environmental purposes should be evaluated
- drought analysis

*Regional outreach and networking:*

- consider outreach to small sub-regional geographic areas
- email does **NOT** reach rural regions – need alternate methods of information distribution (also applies to environmental justice communities)
- outreach must work through regular mailing lists from
  - County Farm Bureaus
  - Resource Conservations Districts
  - rural county outreach programs
- outreach needs to educate rural areas on government agencies roles and programs
- consider “townhall” type meetings in towns of rural regions
- attendees at CWP workshops should take information/workbook back to their organizations; then discuss and bring back additional input to process
- food is good for gathering people together = lunches, etc.
- for focus at meeting, first provide answer to “What’s in this process for me or my agency?”

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**Table E**

*Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:*

- groundwater recharge – not much is known
- groundwater/surface water interactions (conjunctive use)
- surface water storage
- education water sources, storage, use
- more water conservation in Northern California
- requiring water conservation in new developments
- greater urban water conservation overall
- more project specific plans for regional projects

*Suggestions regarding regional reports:*

- results of planning processes need to be integrated
- provide tools to us to educate and involve others in our area
- in looking to the future (Item 7) include development growth trends
- discuss mandatory conservation during dry years, as it relates to water portfolio data
- include impaired water bodies - TMDLs

*Regional outreach and networking:*

- need list of meeting participants and their jobs (water roles) to help identify who else should participate
- send synopsis of meeting to participants
- include Bureau of Reclamation
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Army Corps of Engineers

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**Table F**

*Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:*

Top issues:

- \* more treatment and reuse of urban water
- \* need minimum statewide conservation levels
- \* better understanding of groundwater systems; interaction with surface water; and groundwater protection

Other issues:

- agricultural water use efficiency
- salt management plan
- funding sources
- stakeholder participation
- agency collaboration
- 3<sup>rd</sup> party impacts of water transfers
- improve protection of groundwater and groundwater quality – alluvial aquifer contamination reduces potential for use
- water budget approach
- reducing agricultural water quality impacts

*Suggestions regarding regional reports:*

- conservation/reuse
  - statewide consistency
  - areas that receive water transfers from another region must meet minimum conservation standards
  - increased treatment for reuse
- groundwater
  - better understanding of groundwater systems
  - surface water-groundwater interactions
  - protection of water quality – so no loss of resource (e.g. alluvial aquifer impacts)

*Regional outreach and networking:*

- if IRWMPs are to be implementing vehicle for California Water Plan and Flood Plan, governing bodies need to be representative of regions

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**Table G**

*Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:*

Top issues:

- \* opportunities available through water reuse – currently, there are State and Federal policy disincentives for using recycled water
- \* changes need to be made to institutional framework/policies regarding water transfers and conjunctive use to make sharing of water easier

Other issues:

- water storage/flood management
- floodplain restoration
- storage
- there needs to be a values statement added that specifically addresses maximizing retention of water resources for fish and wildlife resources, commensurate with the obvious public support for conservation of fish and wildlife – please **DO NOT** use Update 2005’s statement with the unneeded “whenever feasible” (see workbook, page 7, recommendation #12); this puts a don the effort and implies it is not a top priority, also, it is not necessary

*Suggestions regarding regional reports:*

- interaction of surface water and groundwater with transfers – recharge zones
- Prop 50 and 84 funding – distribution of funding issues
- storage/area of origin

*Regional outreach and networking:*

- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- local and regional planning agencies
- local government
- linkage representation:  
State ↔ IRWMP ↔ Locals

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**Table H**

*Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:*

Top issues:

- \* protect supply in water source areas – area of origin
- \* more focus on improving water quality in impaired water bodies (TMDLs)
- \* promote a better connection between county planning and resource management (e.g. water supplies for new developments)

Other issues:

- look at areas of limited agricultural productivity, high water demand, and contamination issues
- change laws to protect people who conserve water

*Suggestions regarding regional reports:*

- public education – require real estate agents to disclose water rights constraints/laws
- dedicate instream flows for fish
- crack down on illegal diversions
- more consideration during dry years
- manage groundwater locally
- manage reservoirs better
- cut down eucalyptus groves – plant native drought-resistant plants

*Regional outreach and networking:*

- (group consolidated with another table)

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**Table I**

*Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:*

Top issues:

- \* water supply
  - North of Delta Off-stream storage/Sites Reservoir/Shasta Dam enlargement
  - groundwater/recharge/conjunctive use concerns
- \* regional influence
  - challenges to achieving consensus
  - strengthen IRWM restoration component
  - dealing with 303(d) listings (impairments) – present and future

Other issues:

- insure water supply availability
  - how do regions deal with it?
  - how do regions influence statewide decisions?
  - overdraft protection: groundwater
  - groundwater reliability protections
- resource stewardship
  - strengthen link to the 4 elements of SWP
  - Sacramento Valley ecological values
- goal: regional fingerprint
  - develop methods for regional influence
  - find funding to implement methods for regional influence

*Suggestions regarding regional reports:*

- clarify roles and responsibilities for government and non-government organization in the region
- document resource value especially those unique to Sacramento Valley region
- under water use and supply (item 5):
  - resource management and stewardship should be added
  - water quantity should be a sub-category under water supply
- item 5a (water quality) should discuss fuels reduction and catastrophic fires prevention (ties to runoff and sedimentation) – upper watershed health effects on Sacramento Valley Region
- under State of the Region (6a) include
  - coordination and establishing priorities for fair representation and dissemination of money within region (e.g. sub-watershed groups)
- show integration of B160 with other agency plans
  - COMP study
  - CVPIA
  - ag waiver
  - SWRCB Basin Plans
  - Forest Service Forest Management Plans
  - timber harvest plans
  - county general plans
- clarify sources of information and provide opportunities for collaboration

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**Table I, cont'd.**

*Regional outreach and networking:*

- credibility/fairness
  - within the region, power of regional collaboration rests in identifying regional needs
  - Does the Regional approach really work? Do rural regions have influence on par with large urban regions? How are funds proportionally allocated?
  - Does Regional approach influence local government? and vice versa?
  - statewide level = voting power
  - How do smaller voices attain a level of prioritization?
  - less powerful, smaller populations need to clearly prioritize, lay out their concerns and needs – takes a lot of time and effort (capacity issue ad level playing field)
- process concerns - phased approach to grant applications
  - Is it too tedious?
  - Is it too time-consuming?
  - Why not just have one final application and review period?
  - pre-proposed timeline is too short
  - pre-proposed timeline doesn't recognize importance of partners

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**Table J**

*Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:*

Top issues:

- \* coordinate all planning into water planning
  - floodplain, land use, general planning
  - integrate local plans into regional planning
- \* land use is typically viewed locally – need to look at regionally
  - avoid arbitrarily political boundaries
  - beyond city, county boundaries

Other issues:

- need more storage
  - both surface and groundwater storage
  - replenish groundwater
- educating general public on water issues
- energy costs/availability and impact on water

*Suggestions regarding regional reports:*

- break down water use by:
  - urban
  - agricultural
  - irrigation
  - private wells
- need public awareness/education on the relationship of wells and septic systems
- avoid alphabet soup – define terms and acronyms
- privatization of public water (irrigation districts)
- irrigation → municipal use; results in privatization

*Regional outreach and networking:*

- facilitation team is great!
- would like to hear what others have said
- post other regions before next region
- share attendance list
- get the politicians here! add them to email list
- schematic for website
- who is missing:
  - home owners associations
  - local newspapers
  - association of realtors (Tehama)
  - members of the public
  - environmental organizations
  - Chambers of Commerce
  - service organizations (Rotary, Kiwanis, etc.)
  - USGS

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**Table K**

*Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:*

Top issues:

- \* ensure that attempts to address statewide issues do not redirect negative impacts upstream
- \* establish/provide/include assurances for protection of area of origin and other water rights

Other issues:

- build above ground storage
- integrate water quality with storage discussions
- support conservation of high-altitude springs and watersheds
- incorporate, in Update 2009, need to update regions/State water quality plans, to be consistent with water supply planning
- implement ocean desalination
- address/integrate/consider local plans
- oversee (under State law) underground water flow
- provide more geographic detail on scenario analysis and make analytical tools available to local agencies

*Suggestions regarding regional reports:*

- include useful information – functionable, transferable data that local agencies and public trust and can use
- include clearly defined roadmap for establish and integrating plans for water supply, water use, and water quality
- include baseline data that all interest groups can use
- increase certainty about water decision-making process with measureable goals and triggers – make these objective, not subjective
- include water supply (Shasta Dam, etc.) and groundwater data

Regional outreach and networking:

- region-up approach is good (not top-down)
- diversity is important
- include legislative offices
- contact county boards, staff
- periodic updates
- UC education program
- approach sub-regions separately (e.g. Klamath sub-region from North Coast region)
- send update/followup from current workshop – email, web
- interactive review process for developing regional chapter content
- clarify and announce continued participation
- better cooperation/collaboration with other state agencies
- include watershed groups