

**CWP San Joaquin-Tulare Lake Regional Workshop Summary
Table Mountain, CA – March 11, 2008**

OVERVIEW

As in the prior update, the 2009 Update of the California Water Plan includes a volume consisting of Regional Reports, which describe the conditions for each hydrologic region in the State – as well as two areas of special interest (the Delta and Mountain Counties areas). Each regional report uses a standardized format in describing the current conditions for each region or area. The content for each report is being developed with the involvement of regional and local interests through a series of public workshops conducted in each region or area.

Each workshop consists of three major presentations to describe: an update on the state of Update 2009 activities; revision of Regional Report outlines, based on previous workshop results; and overview of the initial draft outline. For each workshop, most of the time is dedicated to small group review and comment of the initial draft outline of the Regional Report for that region or area. A workshop for the San Joaquin and Tulare Lake hydrologic regions was held on March 11, 2008 in table Mountain, CA. Copies of the workshop presentations, handouts, and materials are available at 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 and worksheets were used to record ideas generated during the discussions and transcripts of the recorded results are located on the following pages.

Lew Moeller, Department of Water Resources (DWR) Update 2009 Project Team, made the first presentation regarding the status of major 2009 Update activities. A key element is the integration of the FloodSafe and IRWM (Integrated Regional Water Management) programs with the Water plan. This new content will be reflected in each Regional Report, as well as the scenarios and Resource Management Strategies (RMS). Other additions to the Water Plan include: quantification of scenarios and potential response packages; assessment of climate change impacts and recommended adaptation actions; and incorporation of other State plans with strong connections to the Water Plan.

Outreach efforts to regional, Tribal, and local interests are continuing to expand. A total of six drafts will be available for each Regional Reports and RMS, with opportunities to comment on the five drafts preceding the final report. Workshop sessions for RMS will occur during July and August 2008, with a conference line to facilitate participation. In addition to the feedback solicited for Regional Reports and RMS, review and comment is requested by June 30, 2008 for the Draft Assumptions and Estimate report released at the end of 2007.

In the second presentation, Paula Landis, Chief of the San Joaquin District for DWR, reviewed the key characteristics of the San Joaquin and Tulare Lake hydrologic regions. A recap of the comments heard during the previous workshop was also provided, along with a revised outline for the Regional Report format. The final presentation, by Dave Scruggs and Ben Igawa with the San Joaquin District of DWR, described each section of the Regional Report for the San Joaquin and Tulare Lake regions. Workshop attendees reviewed, discussed, and provided suggestions for each section, as recorded on the following pages.

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Suggestions for Topics in Regional Report Outline

- how do Federal projects get incorporated into the State Water System?
 - coordinating agreements
 - exchanges and transfers
- how does Water Plan influence IRWM and other DWR grants and funding?
 - Resource Management Strategies recognized in IRWM
 - how does an entity determine which region it's in?
- reconciling area boundaries and definitions with regulatory agencies (Water Boards), watershed boundaries (CALFED) – what region is Kings River and Kaweah in?
- specific data needed at finer level (link to watershed assessments, IRWMPs)
- energy to move water needs to be clean and renewable
- water recycling; water recycling and on-farm use (economics of cleanup)
- forest management practices and impacts on water storage and timing (from forest lands)
- vegetation management and changes in consumptive use
- how are EJ communities, disadvantaged communities incorporated in report?
- change “Challenges” section to “Challenges and Opportunities”
- urban water conservation (WUE costs too high for agriculture)
- make better use of graphics to make information easier to understand
- describe modeling tools and use (CALSIM, WEAP, etc.)
- better sharing of data for water supply and demand; data clearinghouse; data QA/QC
- use interns to help make contacts and collect information from County planners, County engineers, districts, and watershed coordinators – partner with UC Merced and Fresno State (agriculture school and engineering school) on senior projects; Cal Poly has credit classes (CE 400 & 800) for senior projects/internships that provide students with practical skills

Suggestions for San Joaquin/Tulare Lake Regional Report

Setting

- report current and applied for water rights; water rights for Tribal lands (Tribes did not relinquish water rights)
- contact Carol Combs, Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners (559-799-7204 or see website at www.tularebasinwildlifepartners.org) or Jeff Single DFG, Central Valley Region for GIS, analysis, and recommendations relating to all subheadings

Watersheds

- watershed assessments, attempts to delineate watershed boundaries (CALFED)
- geometric-Boyle project: subwatershed carrying capacity for foothill areas
- meadow management on National Forests and CDF
- restoration projects

Ecosystems

- fire and vegetation management; use of fire (Tribes) in management efforts (info source: Cultural Traditions Endangered, Ron Goode, 1992; Tending the Wild, Kat Anderson, 2006)
- meadows restoration (controlled burns to manage brush and saplings)
- ecosystems in flood area of land within setback levees

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- Tulare Lake Conservation Plans (wildlife) have info to contribute (see contact info under “Setting” header, above); also Tulare County riparian corridor survey
- small urban (pollution) particulates affecting micro-climates
- discuss invasive, non-native species

Climate

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Demographics

- Tribal and allotment lands (source: BIA maps, Native American Heritage Commission)

Land Use Patterns

- San Joaquin Valley Blueprint www.sjvalleyblueprint.com
- California Partnership for San Joaquin Valley has a land use, ag, and housing workgroup www.sjvpartnership.org/wg_overview.php?wg_id=8
- contact county planners regarding land use and housing policy direction
- increase in hardscape (impervious surfaces)
- conversion of prime agricultural areas to development
- Southern California dairies moving into SJ Valley (also affects water quality)
- multi-jurisdictional land ownership (i.e. BIA, BLM, DFG)

Regional Water Conditions

- recharge for Tulare Lake Basin
- agreements, contracts, and exchanges need transparency on who is involved and uses
- water banking and credits need to be transparent so they can't be manipulated
- describe conveyance
- discuss groundwater scarcity in foothill area of San Joaquin Basin (supply & challenges)
- more emphasis on foothill water
- groundwater overdraft and efforts to address
- holding contracts v. settlement contracts on the SJ River from Friant to Gravelly Ford
- coordinate DWR and Dept. of Conservation (farmland mapping program) land use mapping and other COG land use mapping, in order to coordinate and improve availability of data

Water in the Environment

- reduction of flows in watersheds, related to subsidence
- water diversions and impacts on the source area (e.g. Friant Kern canal and impact on SJ River flows and fish; Delta withdrawals for delivery to SJ Valley)
- includes snowpack and ocean/coastal resources

Water Supplies

- include groundwater, surface water, recharge, water banking, and reuse
- update unimpaired runoff numbers, explain what area is included (gauge locations)

Water Uses

- urban water utility statistics needs quality assurance (DPH numbers need to add up)

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- industrial (cement plant) uses on waterways
- hydropower generation and inadequate instream flows
- needs to include Tribal plans for economic and residential development

Water Quality

- water quality protection
 - salt management, drainage cleanup for economic uses
 - salinity: naturally occurring v. imported
 - include 303 (d) list
 - leaching of contaminants
 - airborne pollution showing up at higher elevation lakes; impacts of refueling exercises over Lake Isabella and southern Sierras
 - pharmaceuticals
 - testing and education
- (information contact: Bill Templin at Regional Board w.templin@waterboards.ca.gov)

Project Operations

- storage and conveyance facilities for movement of water, including floodwaters and movement of surface and groundwater from east-to-west side of valley

Governance

- Tulare Lake IRWMPs coming together as JPA – could use funding
- describe relationship between federal, state, and other government agencies and the regulations and laws required to implement and approve movement of water throughout the State (i.e. water rights, CVPIA, government jurisdictions)

Flood Management

- beneficiary pays for levee improvements
- need awareness of Tribal cultural and religious concerns regarding Tribal water headways and sacred sites

Historic Floods

- 1970s and 1980s had two major floods of South Fork of Kern Valley. Illegal rediversion of South Fork River

Flood Hazards

- alluvial and river flow risks to communities (e.g. White Blanket Allotment)

Institutions

- list potential agencies involved in movement of water and the federal and state contracts that may require these agencies involvement or approval

Existing Flood Damage Reduction Measures

- several flood projects are needed to mitigate damage to the natural and human environment
 1. Arroyo Pasjero – affects CA Aqueduct
 2. Panoche-Silver – source of selenium in natural environment, hits Mendota
 3. Caliente – Kern Co.
 4. Po?? – hits Route 99 near McFarland
 5. Deer Creek – hits Route 99 near McFarland
 6. Salt-Martinez – hits I-5

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Relationship with Other Regions

- reliance on water from Delta and return flows from the Kings River Watershed into the SJ River

Regional Water and Flood Planning and Management

- use incentives (eg. 10%) for coordinating planning across the hydrologic region
- documentation on funding: where it's going, what it's used for, how successful
- FloodSafe needs to include southern San Joaquin Valley (Kings, Tulare, Kern)
- relationships with Tribal governments
- community involvement in planning; community education
- refer to SJ Valley Partnership Strategic Action Plan www.sjvpartnership.org/site_doc.php
- identify recommended projects contained in AB 3030 plans and IRWMPs

Integrated Regional Water Management

- CABY and lessons learned
- list regional water plans

Accomplishments

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Challenges

- population growth and water allocations
- grants for disadvantaged communities (e.g. CBDG model), need State resources
- preserving Tribal water resources
- coordination between water managers; need real-time monitoring and measurement

Drought and Flood Planning

- linking flood stormwater and supply
- incorporate floods and water supply; water banking plan for recharging groundwater in years of excess
- would like local mapping and/or resources for future flood and house planning and management for Kern Valley area

Looking to the Future

Future Scenarios

- no new dams on San Joaquin

Climate Change

- zones 12 – 13 evapotranspiration: what are things that affect evapotranspiration?
- increase of CO₂ on plant growth
- overgrowth of brush and saplings

Response Strategies

- linking water banking to multiple benefits
- water banking for regional supplies (not exports)

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- recharge and protecting high infiltration soils from development

Implementation Next Steps

- identifying additional storage
- funding for Tribal, county, state and federal restoration projects (i.e. meadows, deer grass, sedge beds, trail restoration along waterways) using native vegetation
- need a well-designed communications and outreach plan to integrate the development of the State Water Plan and the IRWM process regionally

Water Portfolios from 1998 - 2005

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Selected References

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