

Water Plan Regional Workshop Summary – Stockton, CA

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. Three key themes that emerged during the group reports included:

- a. water quality: for surface water, groundwater, environmental water, and recharge supplies; resource management strategies must be assessed in terms on impacts on water quality; consequences for subsistence fishing; matching water quality to use
- b. San Joaquin River ecosystem restoration and environmental water for habitat, wetlands and refuges; meeting CVPIA restoration objectives
- c. water supply reliability and conjunctive use: integrated approach to recharge and use of cleanest water possible for recharge

Other topics that were identified by multiple group reports included:

- d. more conservation and recycling is needed, but water quality impacts must be avoided
- e. integration: complexities of the Delta need to be addressed as a package, not singularly
- f. optimize links between resource management strategies
- g. integration of flood management/levees, flood-flow storage, and groundwater recharge
- h. update Basin Plans

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:
 - address importance/role of levees and their maintenance; funding needs more flexibility; should recommend more setback levees and management of habitat
 - discuss environmental justice: disadvantaged/small communities; subsistence fishing; recreational uses
 - describe water infrastructure and operation of reservoirs
 - tie patterns of land use to water planning
 - write reports in plain language; make user-friendly
- b. water supply/demand/quality data:
 - impacts of dairies, septic tanks, and individual wells in rural areas
 - data on groundwater quality and contaminants
 - take into account existing water rights (legal entitlements vs. actual water received), as well as “extra-regional” considerations (i.e. Colorado River Basin)
 - better, more refined data is needed, especially for wetlands near the San Joaquin River (data on groundwater, water quality, flow)
 - continued refinement of operational models for the SWP and CVP

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- c. challenges:
 - include climate change scenarios for regional ecosystem impacts
 - effective salinity management and disposal of concentrate/brine
- d. resource management strategies:
 - propose San Joaquin River overflow areas for floodplain management
 - discuss local water supplies for south-of-Delta and related storage possibilities
 - look at optimizing reservoir operations (supply v. flood control)
 - include success stories in increasing water supply; need strategies for satisfying demand (storage, source protection, recharge)
 - watershed management: relationship of forest management to water quality/supply
- e. regional planning:
 - water availability/supply should be the primary consideration in land use planning
 - fully comprehensive regional plans must address water supply and quality for both new and existing communities
 - all regional stakeholders should be identified and involved in planning processes
 - multi-benefit planning is needed
 - describe resources and incentives available for IRWM planning
 - need regional approach for management and structure (e.g. basin-wide JPAs)
 - IRWMPs should include performance measures and regional monitoring