

CWP Central Coast Regional Workshop Summary
Salinas, CA – March 25, 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 Central Coast hydrologic region was held on March 25, 2008 in Salinas, CA. Copies of the workshop presentations, handouts, and materials are available on the Water Plan website 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, Lew reviewed the key characteristics of the Central Coast hydrologic region. 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, Iris Yamagata, Senior Engineer for San Joaquin District of DWR, described each section of the Regional Report for Central Coast. Workshop attendees reviewed, discussed, and provided suggestions for each section, as recorded on the following pages.

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Questions

- are regional inflows from /outflows to other regions double counted?
- where does water use efficiency fit in (perhaps with water uses)?
- what is “water in the environment” intending to cover?
- what is the source of climate change data used for the Water Plan and scenarios?

Suggestions for Topics in Regional Report Outline

- add a new subsection under “Settings” header for “Groundwater Basins and Recharge Areas”
 - map and discuss natural and managed recharge areas; important to prioritize and manage recharge areas
 - may require a parallel effort to centralize this information (info sources: Aquifer Vulnerability Study, State Board; Groundwater Risk Zones[?], Regional Board – see Alison Jones, Region 3)
- add a new subsection under “Ecosystems” for “Riparian Modification”
 - discuss habitat removal; extent of leveed. extent channelized, extent armored
- create a blank table that shows information needed, then send to each region’s IRWMs
- change “Water Uses” to “Water Use and Efficiency” and address efficiency in each section (e.g. under agriculture, include water efficiency trends such as increased use of drip irrigation)
- cover the Central Coast area uniformly
- provide hyperlinks to agency websites and documents
- discuss regional conditions according to IRWM, or according to watershed

Suggestions for Central Coast Regional Report

- a lot of this information is contained in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary report, which is currently in draft form – Tracy will check on availability/release); is currently a working document, not available for attribution; compares IRWM goals and objectives (both shared and different), as well as key projects
- MOUs provide detailed information at the program levels
- create and send out a table or Excel spreadsheet that shows the data you are looking for
- include ag infrastructure

Setting

- definitely include map; shorten this section and reference a map
- ensure all watersheds and groundwater basins and main rivers detailed in regional report section show up on map in this section
- create overlay map (groundwater basins over watersheds)
- include Bulletin 118 updates here and align with boundaries (e.g. currently inaccurate for Santa Cruz)

Watersheds

- format this section to one paragraph and a table – introductory sentence should characterize Central Coast watersheds, differences from rest of State: several large rivers, numerous small watersheds, flashy flows
- table should have statistics on key watersheds with one catchall for numerous small coastal watersheds
- delete everything else, move flood references to flood section
- refer to Basin Plans to ensure all watersheds are listed

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- correction: San Lorenzo River (not Valley) watershed
- Santa Ynes, Santa Maria, Soquel, Aptos
- discuss environmental services (water supply, water quality protection, flood prevention, recharge)
- watershed management plan

Ecosystems

- use narrative to describe best types of ecosystems (wetlands, riparian, oak grasslands, redwood forest, coastal) and hydrologic importance; then use bullets or a table for specific locations; info source Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary); e.g. annual grasslands and hydrologic importance (loss of perennial grasslands there is increased runoff and decreased stability)
- loose reference to administrative regions (page 4-1) and keep focus on hydrologic

Climate

- again, structure this section with a one-paragraph overview and then use graphics (e.g. rainfall maps; tables of temperature, evapotranspiration, etc.)

Demographics

- structure the same way, with an overview paragraph – then tables
- for Native American section, focus on communities or reservations that have water needs, environmental concerns, etc. (don't use numbers in general population); 2 recognized groups in Santa Barbara County, unrecognized groups in San Benito; if including population, use Census statistics
- include Gilroy and Hollister areas

Land Use Patterns

- too wordy, use map and table with introductory paragraph (i.e. development from land use changes in last 10 years), use Dept. of Conservation Farmland mapping
- "impervious surfaces" – define, provide statistics, and map – relates to low impact development and future plans for LIDs
- urban growth section to include northern region trends; use comparison maps to show hydrologic impacts; also "modest" not appropriate for growth in Santa Maria area (9,000 until develop is planned over old oil wells)

Regional Water Conditions

Water in the Environment

- this section needs to focus on environmental water needs/uses
- environmental water uses are currently listed in Water Use section
- what does this section intend or want? currently describes sources of water (surface, ground, regional distribution)
- significantly expand existing text on environmental water use; e.g. capture instream flow requirements (unsure of where data is located); and fisheries and stream-forming flows (Karen Worchester, Regional Board 3)
- wastewater treatment as water source for fisheries

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Water Supplies

- expand general information up front (i.e. capture that there are 14 agencies that are purveyors in this region)
- start with bigger water budget picture (use a table) for groundwater, surface water, regional distribution from “portfolios”
- include data for northern region
- reorganize text according to new subsections on:
 1. State Water Project inputs (map to show distribution, use proportionally sized arrows to reflect volume)
 2. surface water diversion and use
 3. desalination
- saltwater intrusion in groundwater/overdraft situations
- in paragraph 1, delete text on Colorado River (and accompanying reference) and add percentage of supply associated with primary sources (surface water and groundwater)
- include replenishment/recharge
- include Central Valley Project in intro
- create a table showing water supplies by area, water agency, sources (gw v. sw), and projects
- desal: Monterey, Tracy (sewage treatment), Cambria, Soquel, Sand City, Santa Cruz, Moss Landing, San Benito County demonstration project – provide status report on all projects in the region (e.g. how much water produced, costs, historic information)
- more emphasis on desal – this is a major topic
- include local supplies, local imports, and storage sites

Water Uses

- change “Water Uses” to “Water Use and Efficiency” and address efficiency in each section (e.g. under agriculture, include water efficiency trends such as increased use of drip irrigation)
- analyze and consider linking water use definitions to Water Board beneficial uses (aim: to link water quality and water use, and make planning/data more compatible), statewide viewpoint, not just this region
- use tables to show water use, similar between regional categories
- ag water use – recognize importance to economy, land use; discuss water quality issues (salinity, boron)
- instead of urban, say domestic water use (or M & I) – urban water use seems to exclude rural use; need to recognize small water systems (e.g. 1 – 5 acres) in rural areas

Water Quality

- which MCLs are typically exceeded
- refer to 303 (d) list impairments; TMDLs – what are the most common ones; which ones are the being developed by the Regional Board? nutrients, sediment/erosion (also relates to water quality, flood control, and useful lifespan of reservoirs)
- nitrate is a major issue for a lot of agencies; (lawsuit against Santa Barbara – Tulare is part of that); concerns about monitoring and political considerations – e.g. monitoring expenses and if results show exceedances, costs to mitigate
- management objectives: Regional Board irrigation and nutrient management; riparian buffer zone designation and protection
- Monterey Bay national Marine Sanctuary and key impacts/concerns
- add a heading on “Agricultural Food Safety” regarding pathogen control in supply waters (Thea Tryon will assist with this section)

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- (statewide issue) pharmaceuticals and emerging contaminants (endocrine disruptors, personal care products) – linking detection to risk
- the Regional Board has a Healthy Watershed Vision to support clean groundwater and healthy aquatic habitat; it address low impact development, stormwater/recharge, groundwater recharge protection, and nutrient management for irrigated agriculture
- tension between food safety requirements and water quality BMPs **must be addressed at state level**
- salt water intrusion into groundwater basins

Project Operations

- talk about project attributes (objectives, purpose, who involved, when, level of scale)
- talk about what's important for region
- invasive species (mussels); the spread of invasives is a big deal statewide
- threatened and endangered species (steelhead) – water for habitat, downstream passage, and dam passage
- reservoirs are multi-purpose – flood control, water storage, fisheries flows
- Pajaro Valley pipeline (on hold)
- spillway storage (Monterey County)
- Nacimiento Reservoir – interagency project to increase storage
- Lake Lopez – raising the dam

Water Governance

- ad hoc coordination between IRWM regions
- San Luis Obispo County agreement – 12 agencies work together on water through MOU
- Arroyo Grande MOU
- IRWM Advisory Committee in San Luis Obispo (Brown Act advisory committee)
- Sand City watermaster
- Santa Barbara county/city sanitation water/wastewater MOU regarding Prop 50 and 84 funding
- Pajaro River watershed coordination of IRWM (MOU)
- include Federal agencies: NOAA, NMFS, Marine Sanctuary

Flood Management

- skip all the weird detail; flood detail exceeds that for all others
- summary and state of levees
- include San Luis Obispo County flooding contributions
- separate out section on emergency procedures and facilities – more that flood emergencies
- explain context of flood management and provide appropriate detail; e.g. major flooding issues, how they are dealt with, why these issues are important for the region; include Pajaro River and Arroyo Grande creek watershed

Historic Floods

-

Flood Hazards

-

Institutions

-

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Existing Flood Damage Reduction Measures

-

Relationship with Other Regions

- existing water imports; proposal for Pajaro to retain more of San Felipe

Regional Water and Flood Planning and Management

- take flood management out of title, put flood with flood discussion
-

Integrated Regional Water Management

- provide map of IRWM areas
- limit details to summary of key items (status, objectives, management strategies) with links to specific IRWMs for detail
- use table, e.g.:

IRWMs	
North Santa Cruz	status: adopted
Objectives: ▪ ▪ ▪	Management Strategies: ▪ ▪ ▪
Monterey	status:
Objectives	Management Strategies

Accomplishments

- pharmaceutical collection program in Santa Cruz County
- agricultural water quality program: Sanctuary Coalition, AQWA, Regional Board waiver
- Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP)
- LID Center (Michael Thomas, Regional Board 3)
- permit coordination (Santa Cruz County RCD)
- all IRWMPs working together in Central Coast

Challenges

- limited funding assistance; figuring out how to allocated limited available funding while remaining collaborative and planning together (easy to be competing for funds)
- how to maximize efficient conjunctive use
- saltwater intrusion in groundwater/overdraft situations
- siting and funding new source or distribution systems (desal and no discharge to sanctuary)

Drought and Flood Planning

- include narrative discussion of responses taken to 2007 drought.
- expand drought planning discussion (e.g. Santa Cruz City/Soquel – desal; offset groundwater in wet years – extra supply to augment surface supplies during drought years)