

**CWP California Delta Regional Workshop Summary
Courtland, CA – March 27, 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 California Delta area was held on March 27, 2008 in Courtland, 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.

Paul Dabbs, Project Manager for Update 2009, 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, Pierre Stephens with the Central District of the Department of Water Resources (DWR), reviewed the key characteristics of the California Delta area. 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 Rick Breitenbach of CALFED, described each section of the Regional Report for the California Delta. Workshop attendees reviewed, discussed, and provided suggestions for each section, as recorded on the following pages.

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Suggestions

- need to announce workshops with watershed groups and other NGOs, use watershed clearinghouse

Suggestions for Colorado River Regional Report

Setting

Watersheds

- include Mokelumne and Calaveras watersheds

Ecosystems

- effects of invasive species on habitat and infrastructure (e.g. quagga mussels and water hyacinth)
- Suisun Marsh
- wetlands restoration

Climate

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Demographics

- include environmental justice issues, especially subsistence fishing
- secondary zone and development figures (first two paragraphs) and state population
- figures need to match
- Tribal communities at LaGrange, Knights Ferry, Lathrop (by Mossdale)

Land Use Patterns

- see Delta Vision status and trends report and context memos on land use, local and state economies
- housing in “San Joaquin” area – Stewart tract
- include ports and deep water channels

Regional Water Conditions

Water in the Environment

- third paragraph, first bullet: rethink this statement – not sure it's accurate

Water Supplies

- expand groundwater discussion – community supplies are generally groundwater; are they being counted? (e.g. Farmington – one well)
- groundwater recharge as supply/use

Water Uses

- county crop use reports discuss acre foot of water per acre of crops
- environmental, urban, and agricultural needs regarding water quality are not always the same
- show export trends (Delta Vision report)
- State Farm Bureau info on ag efficiency – results in less recharge and tailwater

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Water Quality

- explain what Best Management Practices are in place and working, and what needs to be developed.
- describe the cooperation between the many entities that have water quality responsibilities in the Delta
- discuss water quality standards for retention and detention.
- discuss separate systems for runoff and sewage
- what other water quality problems does wastewater contribute to, such as ammonia and phosphorus (used in cleaning cycle), nutrients
- violations on San Joaquin River that continue to feed into Delta (boil water), water from Stanislaus being used to try and correct Delta
- salinity: ag drainage, wastewater, and brine disposal issues; desalination demonstration plant at Tracy
- salinity: San Joaquin County and USGS study; data from San Joaquin County groundwater management plan and IRWMP
- poor quality of local water supply; everyone looks to the Sacramento River for better quality water, while the San Joaquin River brings salt loading
- improperly abandoned natural gas wells are affecting water quality by serving as a conduit that transfers water between the upper and lower aquifers
- where is treated wastewater factor? e.g. Manteca discharge into San Joaquin River – is this considered supply? (response: is a return to prime supply)
- water quality impacts from floods
- need funding for monitoring of dissolved oxygen, removal of selenium and boron; identify data gaps

Project Operations

- influence of court decisions (e.g. Paterno), USFWS Biological Opinion
- invasive species impacts (water hyacinth)

Water Governance

- where would a “Delta governance” entity be placed? at needs authority to make it real; the Delta is a treasure and the legacy towns need to be preserved
- Delta Protection Act
- Supreme Court letter from 1980s regarding peripheral canal (Contact Brett)

Flood Management

- discuss the nexus between floods and water quality
- return islands to natural habitat
- list all studies that are the Delta resources—include what is about to be done and what could be done
- Tom Zuckerman has a white paper on flood management

Historic Floods

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Flood Hazards

- where would catastrophic [levee] failures be addressed in the report? it needs to be covered
- SB5 and future levels of protection
- consequences for system and exports
- dependent on how upstream flood systems are operating

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Institutions

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Existing Flood Damage Reduction Measures

- project and non-project urban levees
- FEMA and State decertification and impacts on communities
- reservoir operations
- valley spill-over areas (recharge floodplains)
- floodwater bypass, San Joaquin County

Relationship with Other Regions

- discuss more the interaction between mountain counties and the Delta - what are the upstream use effects on Delta water supply?

Regional Water and Flood Planning and Management

- San Joaquin County groundwater banking program & IRWMP
- COMP study
- five-county Joint Planning Authority for emergency planning response – DWR to be involved
- DPH has regional inventory of permitted wells (Joe Spano)
- Mokelumne River Forum (San Joaquin, Amador, Calaveras counties and East Bay MUD and MORE WATER project – stormwater capture and reuse of floodflows for recharge or in-lieu recharge

Integrated Regional Water Management

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Accomplishments

- San Joaquin River group authority – water quality on San Joaquin @ Vernalis; working with Dept. of Fish and Game on instream flows for spawning and outmigration
- CVP: US Bureau of Reclamation recirculation program on San Joaquin River, using old drainage channels (So. Delta Water Agency)
- UOP has ecosystem program on stream running through campus; biological study on Calaveras

Challenges

- emerging contaminants such as endocrine disruptors
- monitoring and analysis; are we monitoring for the right things?
- water exports versus ecosystem
- climate change
- aquifer contamination
- need better communication with local NGO's to let them know about regional planning efforts and to incorporate their efforts into the regional plan: "people talk to people, agencies talk to agencies, but agencies don't talk to people"
- alternative energy and PUC mandate of 20% renewables
- south-of-Delta water tends to stay south Delta, leads to water quality problems
- South San Joaquin Irrigation District has 14 acres of solar panels – PGE buyback contingent on PGE issuing permit for hookup, which doesn't happen until they are ready to receive power

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- delivery component: operational costs relative to desal and moving water from one region to another; operating cost of drinking water and ag water for north-of-Delta and south-of-Delta

Drought and Flood Planning

- San Joaquin Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- Stockton Metropolitan Area Flood Control projects

Looking to the Future

Future Scenarios

- seismic impacts on conveyance canals

Climate Change

- discuss what can be done regarding carbon sequestration
- where “should” the saline front be?
- flooding will last longer with sea rise

Response Strategies

- Best Management Practices, for both agriculture and residential use
- desalination plants
- non-point source pollution strategies
- septic – Merada
- capture more through-water

Implementation Next Steps

- look at the Contra Costa County Marina and Recreational Boating report for some good ideas about how to deal with water quality issues
- fees—who pays [for the water, the clean up, etc.]? will water rates rise? what are people willing to pay for?
- better monitoring and data sharing, coordination, and collaboration – e.g. DFG, Boating and Waterways, Regional Boards, SWAMP, DPH (wastewater)

Water Portfolios from 1998 - 2005

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Selected References

- DRMS risk assessment
- POD (point-of-discharge?) and Regional Board Study 2009 (Karen Larson)
- State Board and Regional Board TMDLs (dissolved oxygen TMDLs)
- Delta Atlas: 1,800 diversions, 5,000 cfs/year
- Water Education Foundation’s Delta maps (for fish and use)