

Regional Comments from California Water Plan Workshop in El Dorado Hills 8/10/07

Water Plan Content

Coordinate with other agencies & regulatory permitting: recognize multi-stakeholder efforts, clarify terminology between agencies, streamline project approval processes.

Focus on linkages between inter-regional issues (land use, flood management, IRWMP & water supply): recommend self-sufficiency in all regions, address transfers and flexibility issues, county planning & water agency coordination on growth & resource needs, population increase, protection of water rights, endangered species, funding, water quality standards.

Identify how to and who will address risks & maximize water systems flexibility: climate change (decreased snowpack, earlier snowmelt, increased runoff peaks), flood risks and reservoir & floodplain management, private levee evaluation & restoration, drought protection, catastrophic fire in watershed & impacts on water quality and quantity, aging infrastructure.

Emphasize key strategies and linkages: increase water supply & reliability, address area of origin water rights, improve/preserve water quality at the source, promote conservation & recycling, evaluate new surface storage & reoperation, recharge & conjunctive use, promote consistent regulations for re-use of storm & wastewater, coordinate flood control & supply.

Prioritize implementation of Water Plan (key consideration), dedicate funding to small rural water systems, give credit for inter-regional projects/cooperation, incentives for compliance and upkeep, prioritize multi-beneficiary projects.

Regional Report Topics

Describe physical setting: watershed & ecosystem, federal public lands management, fire management, working landscapes, population growth & carrying capacity.

Report water conditions: supply reliability, groundwater limitations in fractured rock, area of origin protection statutes, flood control, increasing demand, agricultural water use, wastewater & recycled water, hydroelectric use & licensing, influences on water quality & relation to conjunctive use, losses due to antiquated conveyance, infrastructure needs.

Describe unique challenges: disconnect between Mountain Counties watershed contributions to state & limited access to funding, inter-state issues, regulatory conflicts, species protection.

Report accomplishments: IRWM Plan case studies, multi-agency coordination, hydroelectric license renewals, completed water projects & conservation measures.

Study regional scenarios: worst-case drought, reduced snowpack, meadow restoration.

Develop regionally appropriate management strategies and actions based on IRWM Plans: multi-objective reservoir reoperation, smaller storage projects, link land use & water supply, conservation, link wastewater treatment & water supply, include recreation.

Support funding for Mountain Counties area; support the area of origin's stewardship, quantify value of watershed (environment, supply, fire safety), assign value to Delta benefits, consider multiple beneficiaries & cumulative impacts, identify priorities.