

# **Synthesis of Existing Technical Studies: Policy and Technical Implications for the California Water Plan**

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There are many existing local, watershed, regional, statewide, and project-specific studies of integrated and disintegrated water management in California under a wide range of different water demand, climate, and disaster scenarios. These studies include:

- Local and regional agency planning and policy studies
- DWR and USBR CALSIM, LCPSIM, DSM2, and other studies of the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) operations, the Delta, climate change, and additional surface storage
- DWR water portfolios and district office supply, demand, and modeling studies
- California Energy Commission-sponsored studies of climate change
- A wide variety of other data and modeling studies

Local and regional studies typically will contain more technical information, be better funded overall, and provide more detail related to regional problems than statewide water planning efforts. These regional studies collectively represent a tremendous investment of resources, expertise, and thought. Many of these studies also represent how local and regional agencies are currently comfortable developing and employing technical studies. However, from a statewide water planning perspective, many challenges exist to synthesize and extract broadly applicable findings from this body of regionally focused work.

Can the California Water Plan (CWP) synthesize results and extract relevant findings from these regional efforts to more broadly support, test, or develop statewide and regional policy ideas? Being able to integrate and employ the results of existing and ongoing local and regional studies seems essential for the CWP to effectively implement its new regional ethos. Local and regional plans and studies should and will usually be dominated by locally perceived problems, interests, decisions, funding, and expertise.

For Bulletin 160-09, existing studies represent our documented collective technical understanding of California's water problems, as well as future scenarios and solution alternatives, and their expected performance. This understanding is considerable and imperfectible, but has policy implications based on broad and decentralized expertise, issues, methods, and data.

These regional studies can serve as a point of departure for improving our understanding and analysis of California's water system.

Some modest steps:

- 1) Develop a non-exhaustive inventory and web-accessible catalog of major studies, ideally employing the UC Water Resources Archives to maintain an electronic collection.
- 2) Create an annotated bibliography and database of these studies and efforts
- 3) Develop a set of tentative policy implications and caveats for Bulletin 160-09 that emerges from these studies (as a report and/or a wiki) with a CWP Advisory Committee-based oversight committee.
- 4) Develop a report that describes implications for technical data and model development efforts for longer-term regional and statewide analysis.