

California Water Plan Update 2009
Notes from Conjunctive Management and Groundwater Storage Strategy
Workshop
August 19th, 2008

I. Conjunctive Management and Groundwater Storage in California

- *Clarify*, page 1, first sentence: For the definition of Conjunctive Management as a Resource Management Strategy, is a manmade reservoir a requirement for there to be conjunctive storage? (example: In the Sierras, if you restore high-elevation meadows to be pristine surfaces for aquifer-recharge in areas of origin).
- *Suggestion*, page 1, confusing to have a series of percentage figures in text; modify (i.e., 30 percent, 60 percent, 40 to 50 percent). Modify the text so that paragraphs don't overlap as much.
- *Suggestion*, page 1, concern with perceived value judgment in phrase, "groundwater will become even more important in meeting the State's future water demands." Why is groundwater more important, and more important than what else, surface storage?
 - Action: Change to "conjunctive management of surface and groundwater will become more important in meeting the State's future water demands."
- *Suggestion*, page 3, if groundwater is a local government responsibility, discuss what data local government has and their issues
- *Suggestion*, page 3, paragraph 1, reword the first two sentences to read, "The California Legislature has repeatedly held that groundwater should remain a local responsibility (Sax 2002). Groundwater use is subject to the State's waste and unreasonable use statutes."
- *Suggestion*, page 3, indicate how much money was spent under AB 303
- *Suggestion*, page 3, 2nd paragraph, delete "~~Unlike surface water use~~"
- *Clarify*, page 4, bottom paragraph: What is meant by the statement, "...is becoming more important in the wetter areas of the state." Where are the "wetter areas? Give some indication of geography.
 - It was intended to be a relative statement with regards to higher average precipitation in the northern part of the state vs. the drier southern part of the state.
 - *California Water Plan Update 2005*, in its Chapter 2: Statewide Summary, had a contour map of precipitation throughout the state; perhaps refer to that to give an indication of relative wetness.
- *Clarify*, page 5, bottom paragraph: What is meant by "reoperation of groundwater storage"?
 - Example: extracting groundwater with the intent to make additional storage space available for recharge may not be current way of managing the aquifer
- *Suggestion*, add a disclaimer that the Volume 2 Resource Management Strategy narrative deals with generalities and statewide issues, and that specific regional issues are discussed in the Volume 3 Regional Reports.

- *Suggestion*, broaden and clarify the traditional definition/concept of conveyance facilities to include natural as well as manmade infrastructure (i.e. rivers vs. ditches); concern that if not made explicit, then may rule out opportunities in future bond ballot initiatives when using the Water Plan do write legislation

II. Potential Benefits of Conjunctive Management and Groundwater Storage

- *Suggestion*, page 5, when referring to the potential to increase water deliveries through reservoir reoperation, also say that reservoir operation increases risk to conjunctive water users.
- *Clarify*, page 5, define what is meant by “system reoperation”.
- *Clarify*, page 5, first paragraph: What is meant by “overdraft”?
 - Revisit Bulletin 118 California’s groundwater for DWR’s definition
 - Also look at the definition from *California Water Plan Update 2005*
- *Clarify*, page 6, clarify what steams are meant in the statement, “avoid impacts to aquatic species by allowing better management of instream flow and water quality conditions”
 - The Water Plan is not site-specific, but
 - Add the words, “generally speaking” to clarify

III. Potential Costs of Conjunctive Management and Groundwater Storage

- *Suggestion*: Mention rising energy costs

IV. Major Issues Facing Conjunctive Management and Groundwater Storage

- **Affordability**
- *Suggestion*, page 7, under Lack of Data and Tools, concern with emphasis on computer-guided tools, would rather have tools that are *easier to use* that will be used and lead to better management, than tools that are more simply more sophisticated
- *Suggestion*, page 8, instead of “integrated modeling of surface and ground”, use word “coordinated”
- *Suggestion*, page 8, delete the phrase, “in reality”
- *Suggestion*, page 9-10, put more content on local jurisdictions and regional efforts
- Top Issues that were suggested that should be addressed in this section:
 - Rising Energy Costs
 - Risks associated with System Reoperation
 - Climate Change impacts

V. Recommendations to Increase Conjunctive Management and Groundwater Storage

- *Clarify:* What is the impetus/origin for Recommendation #10 (Water Code remove confidentiality of Well Completion Reports). The rationale for this recommendation is currently not discussed in the strategy narrative text.
 - There is a shortage of data because of the of the confidentiality law; as written, the well report data cannot be reused.
 - The intent was not to repeal the privacy law, but to modify it to allow the State access to reuse existing data
 - Part of the reason why well reports are confidential is to protect proprietary interests (land use values and well drillers)
 - Action: Consolidate the discussion of the well completion reports confidentiality and related legal and data issues as a separate text box. It is a topic is of sufficient interest.
- *Suggestion:* Recommendation #8, recommend Programmatic EIR for vegetation to cover these projects

Participants

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