

California Water Plan Update 2009
Notes from Precipitation Enhancement Management Strategy Workshop
July 14th, 2008

Please submit written comments to the author Maury Roos, mroos@water.ca.gov, by August 11, 2008

I. Precipitation Enhancement in California

- *Address Research Need:* Provide more information on how climate change is expected to effect Precipitation Enhancement in CA
- *Point of clarification:* This strategy is usually employed to increase snow pack, unless done on the coast which increases rain fall
 - *can highlight likely climate change impacts*
- *Point of clarification:* Precipitation Enhancement Projects are carried out in Southern California although they are not as fruitful as in the colder northern areas
- *Address the “unrealized potential”*
 - As much as an additional 10%
- *Address the potential areas of additional water storage*
 - *Nexus the Water Storage RMS here*
- *Clarify Institutional Context:* Explain the process by which weather modification is done
 - CEQA, State Report to DWR, Notification of intent
 - note how this can be included in IRWM

II. Benefits of Precipitation Enhancement

- *Additional Benefit:* Fast and flexible nature of this strategy for producing water
 - Rapid application and relatively quick return, much like the desalination process
- *Nexus/Cross-reference:* Forest Management and Meadow Restoration RMS
 - *Mention:* How the benefits are applicable directly to the region/watershed where precipitation enhancement is being carried out, in more ways than storage
- *Address:* Climate Change
 - To what degree could climate change amplify (or offset) precipitation enhancement efforts?

III. Potential Costs of Precipitation Enhancement

IV. Major Issues Facing Precipitation Enhancement

issue to add: Increased Chance of Flooding

- *Note the criteria for suspending operations and minimizing flood risks*
- issue to add: climate change: how may this limit the effectiveness of this strategy? (and link to recommendation #5)*

- a. **Reliable Data**
- b. **Operational Precision**
 - clarify possible need for reservoir re-operation
- c. **Concern over Potential Impacts**
 - unpackage the issues in this section to make it easier for the reader to identify key issues
- d. **Funding**
 - *Clarify:* Is this research funding?
 - State versus Federal research
 - Outline the need for State funding and link to corresponding recommendation
- e. **Inadvertent Weather Modification**
 - *Consider including* discussion of public sentiment regarding weather modification
 - What is the public disclosure process?
 - How does the public typically react? (e.g., requests for snow removal aid)

V. Recommendations to Increase Precipitation Enhancement

- #3: emphasize *unrealized potential*
- #6: not limit to federal research but include state matching funds as well, for both research AND operations
 - consider making this more general (i.e., removing the reference to Santa Barbara), or at least mentioning Santa Barbara earlier in the text (no new information should be presented in the recommendations)

Participants

In room:

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