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**MEETING SUMMARY**

**CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE 2013**  
**EMERGENCY PLANNING OBJECTIVE**  
**2:00 – 3:00 P.M.**  
**815 S STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA**

**Meeting Objectives**

Discuss and suggest revisions for the Related Actions associated with the Update 2013 Objective relating to Emergency Preparedness:

“Prepare prevention, response, and recovery plans for floods, droughts, and catastrophic events to help residents and communities, particularly disadvantaged communities, make decisions that reduce the consequences and recovery time of these events when they occur.”

**Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review**

The Update 2013 Objectives Web-a-thon was held on June 13-14, 2013 to discuss the draft 17 Objectives and the associated Related Action for the Water Plan. Introductions were made around the room and online. With all the participants having heard the opening remarks and overview, the session proceeded immediately to a presentation on the Objective and Related Actions. It was noted that the text is carried forward from the 2009 Water Plan.

**Document Walk Through**

Jami Childress, California Emergency Management Agency, reviewed the related actions related to the Emergency Preparedness Objective (found on pages 28-29 of the workbook).

**Related Actions**

The proposed Related Actions, and the ensuing discussion, are presented below. Please note that the actions below have been abridged from the original text and the sub-actions are not included:

1. Communities in floodplains should consider the consequences of flooding and should develop, adopt, practice, and regularly evaluate formal flood emergency preparedness, response, evacuation, and recovery plans (see Objective 6).

Item #a: State government should assist disadvantaged communities (DACs) located in floodplains to prepare for and recover from flood emergencies.

# Objectives Web-a-thon

## Prepare Prevention, Response and Recovery Plans

June 14, 2013



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Discussion:

- Ms. Childress explained that there are some specific programs that give DACs preference for some criteria. There is a gap in that these communities need assistance with grant applications and management. In the past, CalEMA has considered using university students to assist with grant aspects. There are some programs, associated with different agencies, with formulas for low- and moderate-income communities. An example of programs directed towards rural areas includes the Natural Resources Conservation Service's wetlands partnership projects.
2. By December 2010, the water shortage contingency plans prepared as part of urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs) and Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) drought contingency plans should assume, until more accurate information is available, a 20% increase in the frequency and duration of future dry conditions.

Discussion:

- It was noted that some entities have developed local hazard mitigation plans. These plans are not mandatory, except to receive grant funding, and it is up to each local area to select the hazards that will be addressed in the plans.
  - There was additional explanation that UWMPs must include a section on addressing drought, such as alternative supplies and conservation measures. This information is often narrative and difficult to evaluate, without much consistency. Agencies with a strong commitment to drought planning will evaluate their portfolios and the ability to address a three-year drought. There are probably some best practices that could be promulgated. There has been guidance on how to approach this topic.
  - ACTION ITEM: Have the DWR Lead on URMPs review this action.
  - There was a comment that this seems to be more of a suggestion for a standard, rather than an action.
  - There might be an opportunity to leverage the approach taken by the Community Rating System, where those who go above the minimum requirement receive some type of incentive.
3. By February 2010, DWR will develop a long-term California Drought Contingency Plan that includes a variety of factors (9 items listed).

Discussion:

- It was noted that DWR did do this and is looking at re-writing text, likely after the release of Update 2013. Another comment suggested that writing a plan doesn't

## Objectives Web-a-thon

### Prepare Prevention, Response and Recovery Plans

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necessarily indicate action - there are a lot of boutique plans – and we are moving towards actionable items and trying to integrate multi-purpose planning.

- It was suggested to pull particular actions from the Drought Contingency Plan and see how they are doing. We are currently in Level 1 of the Drought Contingency Plan table (for drought conditions). The appendix contains a list of actions.
  - There are possibilities to coordinate with the drought component element in the State Hazard Mitigation Program, where Julie Norris is working on linkages between drought and climate change. It may be worthwhile to look at the California Adaptation Planning Guide. Also, the Climate Adaptation Strategy is being updated by the Natural Resources Agency.
  - There was a question as to whether this action addresses the concept of “regulatory” drought. It was noted that there is a distinction made between drought and water shortages (based on decisions about releases into the system). The Drought Contingency Plan focuses on drought conditions. There is also a DWR Water Shortages Guide Book, with suggestions for what should be included in UWMPs for water shortage contingency plans.
  - This objective focuses on rather “sudden” conditions. Climate change occurs at a slower pace. The timeline for disasters is more along the lines of months and years, rather than decades. Climate comes into play for long-term planning and mitigation strategies.
  - The concept of resiliency is discussed in the drought contingency plan. Part of it is preparing for a drought and developing resiliency. This section focuses more on extreme events – which could be a consequence of climate change. It was noted that within many of these categories, there are opportunities to integrate these components.
4. DWR will work with the California Emergency Management Agency to develop preparedness plans to respond to other catastrophic events that would disrupt water resources and infrastructure (e.g. earthquakes, wildfires, chemical spills, facility malfunctions, and intentional disruption).

#### Discussion:

- There are many different plans to address earthquake plans
- CalEMA is now working on a catastrophic flood plan, starting with the Delta counties then expanding. The phased approach would start with an all-hazards plan, then move to the concept of operations, before developing a catastrophic flood plan.
- A progressive, phased scenario is a good way to characterize the onset of a drought.



5. By December 2010, the California Emergency Management Agency, and other agencies, shall lead an effort to update the State Emergency Plan and State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan to strengthen the considerations of climate impacts to hazard assessment planning, implementation priorities, and emergency responses.

Discussion:

- Other related plans include the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment and the CalEMA State Emergency Plan.

### Next Steps

The presentation was very helpful in understanding what has transpired since 2009. It was mentioned that most of the related actions are out of date, and many have been accomplished. Participants were asked which recommendations should move forward from the various plans.

- One item is mapping – mapping support is needed for locals. A varied approach is needed to help provide support for DACs. There may be other agencies that have staff and expertise, but need funding. With SB-5, 200-year floodplain mapping is needed.
- Relating to databases, and projects that relate to the Delta or flooding, there is an effort through UC Davis (NERPE). This requires that grant funding recipients need to have report on the grant scope of work, project progress – the 10% retainer was not released until the data was in the database. It could be sorted by type of project and was very helpful. This might be something to tie into.
- Regarding grants, the Army Corps of Engineers supports the Silver Jackets program, which brings agencies together on projects that need funding. (Judy Soutiere is the contact for that program.) This would be a great approach to use with DACs.

**ACTION ITEM:** Call a brief meeting to review the objective and related actions with: CalEMA, Delta Stewardship, CPUC, CalFIRE and the flood and drought teams.



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## Attendance

### *In Room*

Dave Bolland, Association of California Water Agencies  
Bob Siegfried, Carmel Area Wastewater District  
Greg Zlotnik, State and Federal Water Contractors

Jose Alarcon, DWR, Water Quality Lead  
Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR, Manager, Statewide Integrated Water Management  
Lewis Moeller, DWR, Water Plan Project Manager  
Elizabeth Patterson, DWR, Land Use Lead

Lisa Beutler, MWH, Water Plan Executive Facilitator  
Judie Talbot, CCP, Facilitator

### *Webinar*

Jami Childress, California Emergency Management Agency  
Anisa Divine, Imperial Irrigation District  
Gina Ford, California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Bruce Gwynne, Department of Conservation  
Carol Hall, Kleinfelder  
Margie Namba, Granite Construction  
Chris Potter, California Resources Agency (Ocean Grants and Wetlands)  
Tony St. Amant, Water Policy Advocate  
Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority  
Megan Walton, California Emergency Management Agency  
Emilia Wisniewski, East Bay Municipal Utility District  
Salomon Miranda, DWR, Floodplain Management