



MEETING SUMMARY

CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE 2013
EXPAND CONJUNCTIVE MANAGEMENT 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 Conjunctive Management:

“Advance and expand conjunctive management of multiple water supply sources with existing and new surface and groundwater storage to prepare for future droughts, floods, and climate change.”

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. Paul Massera welcomed everyone and noted that an online wrap up session will be conducted on July 9th, to conclude any items needing additional discussion. He explained that the workbook was prepared by DWR staff and subject matter experts, and is for discussion purposes only. The first few pages of this draft document provide definitions of terms and the Water Plan mission, vision and goals – which sets the context for the objectives and related actions. A brief review of the Conjunctive Use objective and related actions (found on pages 6-12 of the workbook) would be followed by discussion on the text.

Overview

Jose Alarcon, DWR Project Team, provided brief background on how the objectives and related actions were developed. He and Francisco Guzman have reviewed the 37 Featured State Plans, related state agency plans with bearing on the Water Plan, and correlated the respective recommendations with the Water Plan objectives. These were forwarded to the subject matter experts for consideration in updating the related actions for each objective. Collectively, the objectives identify what is needed to accomplish the goals of the Water Plan. The related actions represent what is needed to accomplish each particular objective.

The workbook contains a column for performance measures, which will help track each action and inform the next Water Plan Progress Report. Draft measures have been proposed for some of the objectives, and feedback is welcomed on potential performance measures – as well as the objectives and related actions.



Document Walk Through

Dan McManus, DWR, Co-Chair of the Update 2013 Groundwater Caucus, reviewed the Conjunctive Management Objective. He noted that the related actions were developed through comments received on the Conjunctive Management Resource Management Strategy (RMS), and from staff and caucus discussions. There is quite a bit of detailed that needs to be streamlined, with the goal of providing direction for the overall objective. A caveat was provided that the accomplishment of a particular item, especially within the associated timeline, is dependent on receiving funding to proceed with the tasks.

A suggestion was made to provide a column to indicate funding status or categories – for example: whether an activity is currently funded, has anticipated funding, or is unfunded. Another approach would be to say whether the activity is fully funded, partially funded or unfunded.

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:

General Discussion

- Consider using some of the sub-items and performance metrics.
 - Consider adding another column to indicate “legislation required.” There was a question as to the precedence of making recommendations to the legislature.
 - Note that there are actions relating to stormwater and recycled water; which informs the “multiple supplies” part of this objective. (Provide links to those other actions.)
 - Suggestion: For each objective, provide a box listing key links to other discussions.
1. Promote public education about California groundwater. By July 1, 2016, DWR and the State Water Board will work with other State, Tribal, local and regional agencies and organizations to develop a groundwater education program and materials for use in the schools and public outreach. (Key components are listed.)

Discussion:

- Some bullets can convert to performance measures.
- Seasonally there are some huge swings in the amount of groundwater used to meet supply. There are interconnection with surface water and we need to account for the lag-time between groundwater and surface water dynamics.
- Prime recharge areas are being developed over.

Objectives Web-a-thon

Expand Conjunctive Management of Multiple Supplies

June 13, 2013



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- Some elements of the groundwater budget already exist.
 - Item #1-d relates to item #d for the second action (2-d)
2. Improve collaboration and coordination among State, federal, Tribal, local, and regional agencies and organizations to ensure data integration, coordinate program implementation, and minimize duplication of efforts. By January 1, 2017, and on an ongoing basis, DWR and the State Water Board with coordinate with State, federal, Tribal, local and regional agencies and organizations on the following activities (incentives for coordination on long-term sustainability of water supply and quality; improving processes for regulatory approvals, permitting, and alignment regarding conjunctive management; expedited environmental permitting; and stipulation of recharge as a beneficial use).

Discussion:

- Item #d is an extremely important issue. The rivers used to flood, and there was groundwater recharge. After WW-II, we wanted flood management and we did away with groundwater recharge and need a mechanism replace what happened naturally. We need to identify and protect existing groundwater recharge areas and there are economic activities going on these areas. There may need to be compensation for ag landowners for items such as conservation easement. We may need construction of conveyance facilities. It's essential to recharge as much water as possible when there are high volumes of water.
 - A number of water agencies have been advocating for this. This might be linked back to Action #8 (stormwater capture) for Objective #2 (Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently). We need to remove barriers to stormwater capture.
3. Increase availability and sharing of groundwater information. Coordinate with State, federal, Tribal, local and regional agencies and organizations to conduct specific activities (coordinate dissemination of groundwater information; develop safeguards for sharing Well Completion Report; update the Well Completion Report system; implement the online Water Planning and Information Exchange system).

Discussion:

- This goes to the question of how will we manage data in California? It seems that it will involve some type of distributed system, where a portal (such as Water Pie) will be needed to access all the databases. It has great value for the future.
- There are concerns by agencies about wanting to control and manage their own data sets. There would have to be a discussion about how distributed systems support each agency controlling and managing their own data.



4. Strengthen and expand the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program for its long-term sustainability (provide dedicated funding, expand to fractured rock systems, prioritized data acquisition and groundwater monitoring, use of CASGEM to Update B118 in the future).

Discussion:

- Spell and acro first use of CASGEM (as above).
 - These items might be performance measures.
 - Item #c should say “see Action 5 below.”
5. Under the CASGEM Program, improve understanding of California groundwater basins by conducting groundwater basin assessments of CASGEM high priority basins in conjunction with the Water Plan five-year production cycle. By December 31, 2018, DWR will coordinate with State, federal, Tribal, local, and regional agencies to utilize the CASGEM Basin Prioritization information to conduct the following groundwater basin assessment activities (develop groundwater assessment schedule and scope, compile information on data and activities, create detailed assessments reports, develop a summary report).

Discussion:

- FLAG – Connect this with scenarios interests.
 - Item #c – There was a comment of strongly support for the tool development mentioned in Item 3-d (Water PIE) and the inventory and assessment of availability of groundwater basin capacity, storage and recharge (mentioned in Item 5-c). There is particular interest in correlating the stormwater recharge rate with watershed urbanization.
 - This assessment and inventory will help guide land use development agencies in protecting prime recharge areas or identifying the need and opportunity for multi-benefit surface storage projects and in being responsive to the need for climate change adaptation.
6. Conduct an assessment of all SB 1938 groundwater management plans and develop guidelines to promote best practices in groundwater management. In coordination with State, federal, Tribal, local, and regional agencies, DWR will conduct various activities (amending of codes to authorize DWR to assess groundwater management and planning, and establish implementation guidelines; verify and supplement information from Groundwater Management Plans [GWMPs]; support GWMP implementation and practices; develop implementation guidelines; establish a GWMP Advisory Committee).

Objectives Web-a-thon

Expand Conjunctive Management of Multiple Supplies

June 13, 2013



Discussion:

- Mr. McManus remarked that this would not be about approving plans, but more along the lines of reviewing an assessment for completeness (as is done with UWMPs).
 - Consider adding a column for “legislation required.” Actions could be categorized to identify actions such as “Department policy.”
 - Consider adding an action relating to subsidence. (ACTION ITEM: Dan McManus and Carl Hauge will work to develop text.) Comments related to the subject of subsidence include the following:
 - Land subsidence is a big issue. Some water districts are doing a very good job of conjunctive management, then someone comes in and sinks several wells and compromises an existing system. Somewhere, there should be a discussion of economic conditions associated with subsidence (e.g. canal alignment, pumping). The economic implications are severe.
 - The land subsidence is important, and redirected effects need to be accounted for. At a policy level, CWP should flag it – although it’s not clear what the actions should be.
 - In the past 3 years, there has been about 2 feet of subsidence in the Mendota area. Once subsidence begins, it doesn’t stop when groundwater pumping stops. It can go on for hundreds of years. This topic is not getting the attention it deserves in water management and planning.
 - Subsidence, with documented overdraft, may be a basis for changing Section 2100 of the Water code, which involves the State Water Board and a request for adjudication of the basin.
 - There have been efforts to convene a subsidence technical advisory group, initiated by the California Water Foundation with support from Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers. It might be good to highlight some of the recommendations from that group as a first step, then take it to the State Agency Steering Committee.
 - CCST would like to be involved in terms of reaching out to federal entities, such as JPL and others, for data. It was mentioned that the State Lands Commission also has some protocols regarding subsidence.
7. Develop analytical tools to assess conjunctive management and groundwater management strategies. By December 31, 2018, DWR and the State Water Board, in collaboration with State, federal, Tribal, local and regional agencies will conduct the following activities (develop a tool to help identify conjunctive management opportunities and implementation constraints; encourage or require local and regional



agencies to develop or adopt tools to support integrated surface and groundwater modeling and scenario analysis).

Discussion:

- No comments.
8. Increase statewide groundwater recharge and storage by two (2) million acre-feet (maf) [current average annual statewide groundwater use is about 16 maf]. In coordination with State, federal, Tribal, local, and regional agencies, conduct the following activities (revise Water Code to disincent critical overdraft and incent recharge; delineate and map aquifer recharge areas and identify priority recharge areas; support and improve interagency alignment and coordination for groundwater recharge and storage; inventory best science and technologies; compile data and identify data gaps; encourage use of available aquifer space for recharge and develop multi-benefit projects that generate source water for recharge; increase recharge opportunities, leverage storm flows for recharge; conduct pilot studies to advance recharge opportunities).

Discussion:

- An inquiry was made as to whether the increase of 2 maf is on an annual basis. It was clarified that the increase of 2 maf would occur by the end of the five-year Water Plan cycle. (Clarify this in the action.)
9. DWR will complete the evaluation and documentation for the System Reoperation Study by 2015. ... The reoperation options will focus on integrating flood protection and water supply systems, reoperating the existing water system in conjunction with effective groundwater management, and improving existing water conveyance systems.

Discussion:

- No comment.
10. DWR and the US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) should complete the following studies (North-of-Delta Offstream Storage, Shasta Lake Water Resources, and Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage; enlargement of Los Vaqueros Reservoir, San Luis Reservoir expansion). These studies should evaluate potential benefits for new storage with the proposed Delta conveyance improvements, recommend critical storage projects, identify beneficiaries and cost-share partners, and request funding.

Discussion:

- Verify the dates for the studies.



Attendance

In Room

Carl Hauge, California Water Foundation
Luana Kiger, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Karl Longley, California Water Institute, UC Fresno
Bob Siegfried, Carmel Area Wastewater District

Jose Alarcon, DWR, Water Quality Lead
Megan Fidell, DWR, RMS Coordinator, Progress Report Lead
Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR, Manager, Statewide Integrated Water Management
Francisco Guzman, DWR, Companion Plans and Objectives Lead
Paul Massera, DWR, Water Plan Program Manager
Dan McManus, DWR, Groundwater Co-Lead
Lewis Moeller, DWR, Water Plan Project Manager
Elizabeth Patterson, DWR, Land Use Lead
Maury Roos, DWR, Chief Hydrologist
Sean Sou, DWR, Statewide Infrastructure and System Operations

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

Webinar

Marilyn Boehnke, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Dave Bolland, Association of California Water Agencies
Bruce Burton, California Department of Public Health
Grace Chan, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Jerry De La Piedra, Santa Clara Valley Water District
Debbie Espe, San Diego County Water Agency
Aaron Fukuda, Tulare Irrigation District
Monica Gasca, Los Angeles County Sanitation District
Milasol Gaslan, Santa Ana Regional Water Board
Carol Hall, Kleinfelder
Jack Hawks, California Water Association
Al Herson, American Planning Association
Ashley Indieri, Family Water Alliance
Sachiko Itagaki, Kennedy Jenks
Jeff Lynch, Cortina Rancheria
Kathy Mannion, Regional Council of Rural Counties
Vickie Newlin, Butte County
Eric Osterling, Kings River Conservation District
Jodi Pontureri, State Water Board

Objectives Web-a-thon

Expand Conjunctive Management of Multiple Supplies

June 13, 2013



Chris Potter, California Resources Agency (Ocean Grants and Wetlands)
Sandra Schubert, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Tony St. Amant, Water Policy Advocate
Sergio Vargas, Ventura County Watershed Protection District
Mike Wade, California Farm Water Coalition
Betsy Walton, California Emergency Management Agency
Marsha Westropp, Orange County Water District
Emilia Wisniewski, East Bay Municipal Utility District
Matt Zidar, GEI Consultants
David Zoldoske, California Water Institute, UC Fresno

Carmel Brown, DWR, Executive Assistant, Integrated Water Management
Rich Juricich, DWR, Data and Analysis Lead
John Kirk, DWR, South-Central Region Office, Groundwater Section
Dan McManus, DWR, Groundwater Caucus Co-lead
Nancy King, DWR, Water Recycling and Desalination
Salomon Miranda, DWR, Floodplain Management
Mark Nordberg, DWR, North-Central Region Office, Groundwater Investigations
Mary Scruggs, DWR, Conjunctive Water Management Branch