

**Mid-Pacific Region
Sacramento, CA**

MP-05-022

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Public Scoping Meetings Scheduled on Preparation of Long-Term EWA Environmental Document

The Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for implementing the Long-Term Environmental Water Account (EWA). Reclamation and the FWS are the joint lead Federal agencies and National Marine Fishery Service is a cooperating agency. DWR is the lead State agency and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is the responsible agency and trustee agency. A Draft EIS/EIR is expected to be available December 2005. Public scoping meetings are being held to solicit public input on alternatives, concerns, and issues to be addressed in the Long-Term EWA EIS/EIR. The scoping meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday, March 9, 2005, 10 a.m., in Sacramento at the Best Western Inn, 1413 Howe Avenue, Expo Room
- Thursday, March 10, 2005, 6 p.m., in Fresno at the Fresno Radisson, 2233 Ventura Street, Salon D-2
- Monday, March 14, 2005, 6 p.m., in Red Bluff at the Red Bluff Community Center, 1500 Jackson Road, West Wing
- Tuesday, March 15, 2005, 6 p.m., in Tracy at Anthony's Steak House and Banquet Room/VFW Hall, 430 West Grant Line Road
- Wednesday, March 23, 2005, 4 p.m., in Los Angeles at the Metropolitan Water District, 700 N. Alameda Street, Room 1-102

The EWA is one component of the long-term comprehensive plan adopted in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Record of Decision (ROD). CALFED agencies identified a need in the ROD for additional fisheries protection measures above and beyond the existing baseline regulatory measures to speed recovery of listed fish species. The establishment of the EWA was a key component of this additional protection.

Written comments on the scope of the environmental document are due by close of business on Friday, April 22, 2005, and should be sent to Ms. Sammie Cervantes, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825. For additional information, please contact Ms. Cervantes at 916-978-5104, TDD 916-978-5608, or at scervantes@mp.usbr.gov.

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