

Perceptions of Third Party Interest Groups on Compensation and Mitigation for Water Transfer Impacts

A Report Prepared By:
Bay Delta Authority Water Transfer
Program

In Coordination With:
BDPAC Environmental Justice
Subcommittee



Study Purpose

- Determine whether there is a perceived need to compensate 3rd parties because of water transfer impacts
- Determine who should be compensated
- Determine how a compensation program could be administered



Method

- Developed list of 3rd party representatives based on EJ Subcommittee references
 - 17 organizations were contacted and participated in survey (6 other organizations declined to participate)
- Developed and administered questionnaire
- Compiled and analyzed data



Questions

- Should 3rd Parties be compensated as part of the water transfer proposal?
- Types of compensation, form of compensation, and how to identify parties to be compensated
- Duration of compensation



Overall Results

- Positive effects of water transfers include:
 - Improved water supply reliability
 - Improved water quality
 - Cost savings compared to developing other supplies
- Negative impacts of water transfers include:
 - Job loss
 - Income loss
 - General economic impact



Overall Results (cont'd)

- Responses varied widely with very little consensus among respondents
- Some respondents felt that simple answers were not appropriate for such a complex topic
- Some respondents felt that the issue of 3rd party compensation needed to be addressed by the legislature to establish a strong regulatory framework



Need For Compensation

- Over 75 percent of the respondents felt that all affected (directly as well as indirectly) parties should be compensated.
- The primary type of compensation identified:
 - monetary
 - job retraining
 - education.



Who should be Compensated

- 60 percent of responses indicated that compensation needs to be made to the affected individual
- Project proponents should assume responsibility for identify possible recipients



How to Administer Compensation

- Existing community organizations should be consulted to identify suitable mechanisms administering compensation
 - Tribal Groups
 - Salvation Army
 - Hispanic Resource Council
- Community outreach programs should be performed to identify possible recipients



Results (cont'd)

- 30 percent of respondents indicated that duration of compensation should be proportional to the duration of impact
- Others responded with durations ranging from 6 months to 5 years varying by region or on a case-by-case basis



Conclusion

- Responses varied because of diverse interests of various interest groups
- Responses failed to provide a clear direction for implementing compensation for 3rd party impacts
- A common viewpoint expressed is need to involve the local communities in the water transfer decision-making process in identifying potential impacts, appropriate compensation, and mechanisms for administration

