



Southern California Regional Drinking Water Quality Planning

The California Bay-Delta Authority (CBDA) and its Drinking Water Quality Program have provided funding to southern California and two other regions to develop Regional Drinking Water Quality Plans. The \$250,000 CBDA grant will be used to develop by June 1, 2005 the first phase of the Southern California Regional Drinking Water Quality Plan (Plan). The Plan will develop preliminary regional strategies that utilize an integrated mix of tools to address water quality issues from source water to the customer's tap.

The Southern California Drinking Water Quality Strategy Group (Strategy Group), the Mono Lake Committee, and the Southern California Water Dialogue (Water Dialogue) will work together to manage the first phase of the Plan.

The Strategy Group includes southern California representatives from the CBDA Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee (BDPAC) and the BDPAC Drinking Water Subcommittee: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), Long Beach Water Department (LBWD), Cucamonga Valley Water District (CVWD), Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA), Mono Lake Committee, and San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA). The Mojave Water Agency (MWA) is participating as a member of the Water Dialogue Steering Committee. The Mono Lake Committee is the grant's fiscal agent.

The focus of this effort is to address water quality standards set forth in the CALFED 2000 Record of Decision (ROD). The CALFED 2000 ROD calls for specific drinking water quality targets (average concentrations at Clifton Court Forebay and other southern and central Delta intakes of bromide @ 50 micrograms/liter and total organic carbon @ 3.0 milligrams per liter) or an equivalent level of public health protection (ELPH) using a cost-effective combination of alternative source water, source control, and treatment technologies. The ROD does not, however, define how to achieve ELPH protection.

The Strategy Group's focus will be to develop and test a process to examine the cost as well as the effectiveness of strategies to achieve ELPH protection, including source protection and local projects. In Phase I of the process, six water agencies – LADWP, LBWD, MWD, SDCWA, the Chino Basin (IEUA and Cucamonga), and MWA – are charged with developing the model and testing it. Phase II and III will involve expanding model runs to include a number of other water agencies to more effectively assess and develop strategies for the southern California region.



In Phase I of the Plan, the Strategy Group will take the following steps to develop draft preliminary strategies:

1. Enlist the participation of six regional water agencies (listed above) with a representative mix of water supplies (State Water Project water, Colorado River water, and local sources) to provide water quality information for case studies;
2. Summarize local knowledge of water supply, water quality planning, and location of water quality informational sources that will contribute to the development of preliminary strategies;
3. Initiate stakeholder outreach to provide feedback throughout the developmental stages of the Phase I;
4. Develop and test a conceptual model including the collection of data regarding current and future drinking water quality conditions (population, water sources, water quality, contaminants of concern, treatment technologies and actions to improve source water quality) and anticipated regulatory and management changes, and
5. Utilize information from existing water quality documents, water supply planning documents, and the conceptual model to develop preliminary strategies that guide actions and investments needed to achieve ELPH goals.

Phase II of the Plan will consist of the Strategy Group continuing to build the southern California drinking water quality picture. As part of this effort, the conceptual model will be refined and utilized for a larger group of agencies in the region. Also, this effort will investigate the potential to include risk analysis in the water quality assessment.

Phase III of the Plan will consist involve incorporating a majority of southern California agencies into the regional water quality conceptual model. In addition, regional solutions will be integrated into CBDA ELPH planning.