

California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee
Water Supply Subcommittee - April 19, 2006 Meeting Summary
Bonderson Building Hearing Room
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Introductions

The following Water Supply Subcommittee members and alternates attended the meeting: Steve Hall, Jerry Meral, Alan Zepp, Bernice Sullivan, Richard Denton, and Barry Nelson. Members, alternates, and audience members introduced themselves.

The following items were included on the agenda:

1. Global Climate Change
2. San Luis Low Point Improvement Project Update
3. Common Assumptions Update
4. Water Bond Status
5. Surface Storage Projects' Next Steps
6. Public Comment

1. Global Climate Change – Presenter: Phillip B. Duffy, Ph. D., Physicist, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and Director, Institute for Research on Climate Change and its Societal Impacts. Dr. Duffy described the state of climate and water supply prediction science, especially as related to California. His presentation offered several conclusions including:

- California is experiencing climate change. Warming is shifting seasonal timing of river flows and threatens water supply (likely including water quality); increased year-to-year variability would complicate planning; flood risk seems likely to increase; and levees are vulnerable.
- Prediction capabilities have improved for both climate and hydrology. Despite uncertainties, some conclusions are robust (i.e. temperatures are higher, sea level is rising).
- Today's science is already advanced enough to be useful to decision makers, and is rapidly improving.
- We need to quantify scientific uncertainties better; this requires closer coordination among research institutions.
- We need to develop policies that make sense given uncertainties
- This requires closer ties to decision-makers and a willingness to do "real-world science."

Comments: the subcommittee and audience asked for clarification of many of the projection values in the presentation. Dr. Duffy stressed that planners should not focus on any one projection, but should rely on robust conclusions substantiated by the range of estimates (e.g. sea level is rising and will continue to rise).

San Luis Low Point Improvement Project Update – Presenter: Jerry Robbins, USBR. Mr. Robbins described the background, need for study, project objectives, project alternatives, and project schedule.

Comments: the subcommittee and audience asked if planning is moving too fast now, the effect of re-operation alternatives, and what happened to the Santa Clara Valley Water District planning efforts. Mr. Robbins explained that a significant change since previous discussions of this planning effort at WSS meetings was the federal authorization to study given by Congress in October, 2004.

3. Common Assumptions Update – Presenter: Sean Sou, DWR. Mr. Sou described the status of Common Assumptions efforts including the Plan Formulation Report Common Model Package, the Surface Storage Progress Report Update, and Ad-hoc Technical Workgroup feedback. Roger Mann, consultant economist, presented information related to developing water price estimates for the Environmental Water Account for use by the surface storage investigations.

Comments: the subcommittee asked questions related to the effectiveness of the ad-hoc technical workgroup. Greg Young, CA consultant, reminded the subcommittee of the original purpose of the workgroup and noted that the subcommittee should submit specific issues or questions to the workgroup so that the subcommittee can better understand what CA is doing. The subcommittee asked for additional information related to identifying specific benefits associated with EWA. Greg Young noted that CA and the surface storage investigations are not the same thing. In the end, each storage investigation will be responsible for identifying benefits and evaluating project effects. **Action:** Steve Hall recommended that the subcommittee hear from each storage investigation soon so that they can better understand how CA is being used by the investigations as well as a forum to discuss progress being made by the investigations.

4. Water Bond Status – Presenter: Mark Cowin, DWR. Mr. Cowin presented an overview of information and material development for potential inclusion of money for surface storage in the recent bond proposals. The legislative infrastructure bond effort will not include any funding for water resources beyond that for flood protection. Major stumbling blocks included fees, funding for parks and land conservation, governance of integrated resources funding, and surface storage. Another bond measure based on gathered signatures will include some water resources funding for planning and will likely qualify for the November ballot.

5. Surface Storage Projects' Next Steps – Presenter: Mark Cowin, DWR. Mr. Cowin described the status of the investigations and emphasized the common need to develop project descriptions based on local/regional, State and Federal interests.

Comments: the subcommittee asked about the status of the surface storage investigations' partnerships and Mr. Cowin noted that there has been no change. The subcommittee asked how the local efforts by Contra Costa Water District (Los Vaqueros Reservoir) and Metropolitan Water District (Diamond Valley Reservoir) were able to succeed. Mr. Cowin noted that those examples each included a single local entity interest, and no Federal or State interest. A previously requested forum to discuss the investigations' progress would help focus on these issues.

Public Comment: there were no additional public comments and the meeting was adjourned.