

California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee (BDPAC)
Water Supply Subcommittee (WSS)
Thursday, May 1, 2008
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon
CALFED
650 Capitol Mall, 5th Floor
Delta Room
Sacramento, California

Meeting Summary

Introductions

The following BDPAC members attended the meeting: Ronald Jacobsma and Jerry Meral.

The meeting focused on the following agenda items:

1. Governor Schwarzenegger's Delta Conveyance Plan
2. Program Plan Reports for Conveyance, Environmental Water Account, Surface Storage, and Water Use Efficiency
3. Judge Wanger's Salmon/Steelhead Ruling
4. Potential Surface Storage Contributions to Delta Solutions
5. Update from Department of Water Resources (DWR) and United States Geological Survey (USGS) on Delta Carbon Sequestration Discussions
6. Public Comments

Jerry Meral, National Wildlife Federation and WSS Co-Chair opened the meeting by welcoming those attending and reviewing the meeting agenda. The summary below provides an overview of the presentations, comments, and questions received from the subcommittee and meeting participants in the order of the agenda, not necessarily the order of the discussion. The order of the agenda was adjusted to accommodate the presenters.

1. Governor's Delta Conveyance Plan, Kathy Kelly, DWR

The Governor wants to move forward with projects in the Delta to help meet California's water supply needs. The Governor has issued a directive to develop and implement conveyance projects for the Delta, with at least four formulations: no change in conveyance, dual (through-Delta and isolated) conveyance, improved through-Delta conveyance, and an isolated conveyance program. DWR is conducting an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) that will include a dual conveyance option and examine a range of alternatives that can provide improved water supply reliability for in-Delta and export users, support continuous improvement in Delta water quality for drinking water supplies and improve the Delta ecosystem.

There are several other projects proposed for the Delta as part of the BDCP, such as Franks Tract and the Clifton Court Fish Screen, which will try to meet the governor's directive and that will be coordinated with a new biological opinion (BO) from the Operations Criteria and Plan (OCAP) process. These projects are not moving forward without considering new and future Delta

operations and procedures provided by the Delta Vision process. BDCP will lead to receipt of an incidental take permit for proposed conveyance facilities.

Questions/Comments

- *Does every project consider water quality as an objective?* Yes, even if not explicitly stated.
- *How is the directive being funded?* Through the State Water Project (SWP) funds. *Even though it is part of the BDCP, it doesn't seem like the directive is included in the conveyance program plan, why is that?* DWR has broken out projects by the existing Records of Decision (ROD) and then by the improvement projects.

2. Program Plans Reports

Conveyance - Victor Pacheco, DWR

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and DWR are coordinating CALFED conveyance projects throughout the Delta. A number of projects are in the north, south and central Delta. The information gained and lessons learned from the BDCP and Delta Vision work over the years has contributed to these projects.

The North Delta Flood Control project will improve habitat conditions and capacity for floodway corridors and a final EIR is scheduled for August 2008. The Through Delta Facility Project completed engineering studies last year, and other potential diversion locations and screen efficiency have been identified. The Delta Cross Channel re-operation is considering operating just the gates, which will include adding screens, leaving the gates open for longer periods of time, and potentially adding additional gates. The Lower San Joaquin Flood Control Improvement project is conducting a feasibility study, as requested by stakeholders. Programs that are on hold at this time include the Tracy Pumping Plant Intertie, Delta Mendota Canal Intertie, and the South Delta Improvement Program as they are awaiting a new OCAP BO.

Questions/Comments

- *What is the status of the Skinner/Tracy Fish Facility?* Draft reports are being prepared.
- *Last year, the New Melones Reoperation program completed a pilot study, are you moving forward with the draft environmental study? What is the budget for these projects?* The budget is part of the Program Plan. Those projects not in the Plan, are not part of the CALFED system and are not funded through the Plan.

Environmental Water Account (EWA) - Teresa Geimer, DWR

The EWA project began in 2000 and the pilot study was completed in 2007. The program began under the CALFED ROD to protect at risk fish in the Delta impacted by the SWP and the Central Valley Project (CVP) projects. The Wanger decision for Delta smelt changed operations for the EWA. A supplemental EIR/EIS will soon be completed and the ROD is expected in June. The ability to maintain coordination with the SWP and CVP is uncertain in addition to a new OCAP BO. The 2009 budget is reduced for the program because no state funds are available for water purchases; however, Yuba County Water Agency purchased water still remains along with

dedicated pumping capacity at Banks Pumping Plant to transfer the water. In light of this, the program will try to balance its assets with its priorities.

Questions/Comments

- *Will EWA operate this year at all, other than any reserve water?* Yes, the 60 thousand acre feet (TAF) purchase from Yuba County Water Agency will carry over from 2007 to close out the program and any water left over can cover EWA actions this year. *Has anyone looked into the available funding provided by SB27?* Funding for 2008 is less of a problem than finding the water to purchase and conveying the water through the Delta.
- *The commercial fishing industry is seeing the effects of having water used for agriculture rather than reserved for fisheries. Water temperatures are also too high, further impacting commercial fishing. Why have we not kept more water on reserve?* Currently there is no water available for purchase.

Surface Storage - Ron Ganzfried, Reclamation

The program is comprised of two elements: surface storage and groundwater. The lead agencies for surface storage activities include DWR, Reclamation and Contra Costa Water District (CCWD). Project objectives include, increasing water supply reliability and flexibility, increasing the survival of anadromous fish and other aquatic species, improving Delta water quality, supporting ecosystem restoration, opportunities for hydropower, flood damage reduction, emergency response, recreation, and protection of resources and habitats. Ongoing activities include completing federal and state feasibility studies and environmental compliance documentation.

Questions/Comments

- *EIRs usually take six months to move from the published draft to the final draft, why are most of these projects slated for one year?* The schedules recognize that litigation about Delta operations might affect final consultations and most projects would like to include the new OCAP decisions, which may require addressing operations or projects specific details that may alter the project plans.
- *How are you handling the variability of future Delta operations?* Each project is trying to anticipate what a future Delta scenario might look like and is conducting sensitivity analyses that will be described in the State Feasibility Studies.
- *How far out is this program funded?* Currently through 2010, although additional funding may be necessary. The goal is to share study costs (of all four studies as a whole) 50-50 between DWR and Reclamation.

Water Use Efficiency - Dave Todd, DWR

The Draft Program Plan is continuing to use \$15 million in Prop 13 funding for urban and agricultural water use efficiency. The program's research grants will continue to help fund water recycling projects including a projects tracking database for recycled water data, desalination project grants, and management. The Brine-Concentrate Management Study which will focus on the current state of southern California brine-concentrate treatment and disposal facilities, regulatory requirements, and emerging/secondary constituent issues, an devaluate and compare treatment and disposal methods. The technical assistance activities for the year include technical assistance provided by agencies regarding water conservation, water recycling, desalination, and

water management. DWR is also undergoing an update of the landscape model ordinance and reviewing urban water management plans as part of the Governor's initiative for a comprehensive solution for the Delta and a 20 percent reduction of statewide water usage by 2020.

Questions/Comments

- *Is the 2020 goal realistic?* Depending on the baseline year chosen, the goal can be realistic. Different agencies have their preferred baseline and most are using rates from the 1980s. It is difficult to measure the progress of water usage. This topic could be discussed at a future meeting.

3. Judge Wanger's Salmon/Steelhead Ruling, Michelle Marrow, DWR

A complaint was filed in 2005 challenging the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) BO for salmon and steelhead. Judge Wanger found that the BO did not justify a conclusion of no jeopardy, it did not consider the impacts of global climate change, and did not include an adaptive management process to minimize impacts. A supplemental order set out a schedule in order to obtain more information by NMFS regarding the status and number of species of fish in the Delta. The CVP and SWP were ordered to provide a discussion of expected impacts for remaining 2008. The salmon/steelhead evidentiary hearings are currently scheduled to begin on June 6.

Questions/Comments

- *Most of the information considered focused on winter and spring runs for salmon. What does the ruling mean for the steelhead?* The impacts have not yet been determined.

4. Potential Surface Storage Contributions to Delta Solutions

Shasta Lake Expansion - Katrina Chow, Reclamation

The project's objectives include anadromous fish survival, water supply reliability, and the secondary objectives include ecosystem restoration, flood damage reduction, hydropower, and recreation opportunities. The project would enlarge Shasta Dam and the corresponding lake by 18.5 feet adding 634 TAF of storage. In terms of ecosystem restoration, the project's tributary actions are intended to support Sacramento River aquatic species by enhancing temperature conditions as the additional storage provides more cool water for anadromous fish. The project would provide operational flexibility to shift CVP and SWP Delta pumping operations to times that are less harmful to Delta fisheries. Emergency water supplies and improved water quality would also be provided.

Questions/Comments

- *Where will the water come from to increase pools? How often does the dam fill? Water is available by capturing flows from flood events and runoff. The lake will fill approximately once every five years. What about impacts to upstream areas and recreation?* The project EIS is taking these impacts into account.

North of Delta Offstream Storage - Sean Sou, DWR

The project's primary objectives include increasing water supply reliability, improving Delta water quality, and increasing the survival of anadromous fish and other aquatic species. The secondary objectives include providing ancillary hydropower generation, recreational opportunities, and

incremental flood damage reduction benefits. Additionally, the project can increase operational flexibility for the SWP/CVP system. Through coordinated operations with Shasta, the project can provide ecosystem restoration flows in the Sacramento River and Delta. The project can also release water for Delta emergencies.

Questions/Comments

- *Will there be sufficient yield in the reservoir to accomplish all or most of these actions?* The project can meet all of the primary objectives during average years.

Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project - Marguerite Naillon, CCWD

The project objectives include developing a water supply for environmental water management that supports fish protection, habitat management and other environmental water needs. Other objectives include developing water supply reliability for Bay Area water agencies and a secondary objective to improve the water quality for the Bay Area. The project can provide restoration of Delta ecosystems and fisheries through screened deliveries to Bay Area water agencies, supplies for wildlife refuges, and in conjunctive operations with CVP and other water agencies.

Questions/Comments

- *What responses are you getting from Bay Area water agencies?* The agencies are currently evaluating the project. CCWD and Reclamation are also evaluating alternatives focused on environmental benefits and a smaller reservoir expansion option if the other Bay Area agencies choose not to participate.

Upper San Joaquin River Storage - Erika Kegel, Reclamation

The project's objectives include enhancing water supply reliability and the temperature and flow of the San Joaquin River. The project can also provide flood control, hydro power, recreation and water quality enhancement for urban users via exchanges. Restoration of aquatic species will work in conjunction with river restoration such as using temperature control devices on Friant Dam. The project will integrate with the SWP and CVP to indirectly provide water to the Delta for emergency response and direct deliveries to south of Delta users.

Questions/Comments

- *What would integration require?* Integration could be accomplished with the existing Cross Valley Canal conveyance, a new Trans Valley Canal, and it could be enhanced by using other smaller existing cross valley canals and infrastructure from San Luis to the Friant conveyance. Temperance Flat alternative could provide water to the South Coast in exchange for South Coast's SWP water being stored in Friant Water Users Authority (FWUA) groundwater when San Luis surplus supplies exist. This provides additional capacity in San Luis Reservoir for additional storage. Overall, these actions produce a net improvement in supply reliability for the SWP and FWUA.
- *Have you considered integration for new groundwater banks?* Groundwater integration and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater supplies, including banks, already takes place in this region. These activities would continue.

**5. Update from DWR and USGS on Delta Carbon Sequestration Discussions -
Steve Roberts, DWR**

DWR is in funding negotiations with USGS for a \$12 million, three year research phase. An additional amount for \$21 million could be possible in years four through seven if the pilot study meets the study objectives. DWR hopes to choose a project site and complete contracts by the end of this fiscal year.

6. Public Comments

No public comments were received.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.