

California Water Plan Update 2009
Notes from Conveyance (Regional/Local) Strategy Workshop
August 25, 2008

I. Conveyance in California

- *Comment:* Avoid using the term “losses” (water is not lost from the hydrologic cycle).
- *Comment:* Page 2, define what is meant by Delta Conveyance.
- *Comment:* Friant-Kern Canal is important to the San Joaquin River users as well as the Delta.
- *Suggestion:* Add a map from Bulletin 160-98 that shows federal, State, and regional/local conveyance facilities.
 - *Suggestion:* Request that the conveyance map be in color to differentiate different jurisdictions (federal vs. State vs. regional/local)
- *Comment:* Mention that the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) have an exchange agreement with the Colorado River Aqueduct.
- *Comment:* Update the information on the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA).
- *Comment:* Page 2, section called “Regional Conveyance” seems too Northern California-centric
- There were suggestions to have two separate strategy narratives; one for Conveyance relating to Delta and another one for Conveyance in general. There were also suggestions to keep it is a single strategy narrative because much of the content would be repetitive.

II. Potential Benefits of Conveyance

- *Comment:* Researchers at UC Davis did a climate change study that prioritized different types of conveyance projects.
 - “Adaptability and adaptations of California’s water supply system to dry climate warming.” *Climatic Change* (2008) 87 (Suppl 1):S75-S90. Web link: http://meteora.ucsd.edu/cap/pdf/medellin_adaptation_jan2008.pdf
- *Comment:* Some benefits, if not properly framed, become “Issues” rather than “Potential Benefits.”
 - Particularly concern with the characterization of “instream flows” as a benefit.
 - Instream flows are an issue with FERC relicensing.
- *Comment:* The Potential Benefits of the Conveyance strategy should reference the Regional Reports in Volume 3.
 - The draft Colorado River Regional Report (Vol. 3, Chapter 11) has a section on conveyance
- *Comment:* Consider a sidebar or text box about nexus with other resource management strategies.
 - Historically, Conveyance in the California Water has been about water supply, not flood management. For *Update 2009*, the Water Plan is consciously

making a nexus between Conveyance and the other integrated flood management resource management strategies.

- *Suggestion:* Page 2, first paragraph under heading “Potential Benefits of Conveyance,” add the word “may”:
“Regional and interregional conveyance facilities may provide flood management, consumptive and non-consumptive environmental uses, water quality improvement...”
- *Suggestion:* Page 2, first paragraph under heading “Potential Benefits of Conveyance,” add sentence: “See other Resource Management Strategies...” (refer reader to other Strategies that relate to the benefits listed in the previous sentence).

III. Potential Costs of Conveyance

No comments on this section.

IV. Major Issues Facing Conveyance

- *Suggestion:* Change the section header to “Major Issues and Considerations”
- *Suggestion:* Add “Energy” as a new Major Issue.
- *Suggestion:* Page 6, environmental issues and mitigation needs should be added to the discussion on “Regulatory Compliance” as a major issue
 - Consider TMDL and 404 permits
- *Comment:* Consider adding “Urbanization” as a major issue, both as a growth-inducing factor as well as impacts on rural areas and areas of origin.
 - San Joaquin Valley is experiencing rapid population growth but does not have a natural conveyance channel from east to west (the west side of the valley generally lacks groundwater storage capacity (besides Kern County) and has little access to Delta water).
- *Comment:* Consider “Legacy Infrastructure” as a major issue
- *Comment:* Consider the capacity of conveyance facilities to provide water for beneficial uses (for instance, CA Department of Fish and Game takes advantage of cold water in ditches)
- *Comment:* Explain nexus with and cross-reference other resource management strategies.
 - For example, canal lining and purple pipes for transporting treated wastewater relate to Conveyance as well as Urban Water Use Efficiency and Agricultural Water Use Efficiency
 - Issue of legacy infrastructure is related to the Land Use Planning and Management resource management strategy
 - Cold water in ditches may be related to Ecosystem Restoration
- *Comment:* Consider that switching to drip irrigation assumes an investment in infrastructure; many districts do not have systems suitable for drip irrigation
- *Comment:* Consider that many ditch tenders will soon retire (losing decades of experience).

V. Recommendations to Promote Conveyance

- *Comment:* Environmental benefits/instream flows should be attributed to specific, intended use (as defined in statute) rather than ancillary and unintended use.
 - Reducing the amount of water removed from natural systems increases the likelihood of restoring natural habit to its native state; that should be emphasized as a higher priority (as required by the Fish and Game code) than leaky systems as habitat
- *Comment:* There was a different suggestion from another individual that there be a recommendation recognizing that conveyance facilities can serve important environmental functions that should be protected as part of land use policy
- *Suggestion:* Add a recommendation to balance TMDL agreements with conveyance improvements (for instance, if making a conveyance system more efficient, may deliver less water but still deal with same amount of chemical effluent)
- *Comment:* Be aware of the statewide Wetland and Riparian Area Protection Policy being developed by the State Water Resources Control Board, which will come up with a statewide definition of “wetland”. The policy will complement Executive Order W-59-93 (1993) which established state policy guidelines for wetland conservation to ensure no overall net loss and to achieve a net gain in wetland acreage in California.

Attendance (24)

Jim Atherstone, South San Joaquin
Irrigation District
Thaddeus Bettner, Glenn Colusa Irrigation
District
John Brown, no stated affiliation
Anisa Divine, Imperial Irrigation District
Philip Erro, Westside Resource
Conservation District
Bruce Gwynne, CA Department of
Conservation
Barbara Hennigan, Butte-Sutter Basin
Area Groundwater Users
Rebecca Kanegawa, MWH
John Mills, Offices of John S. Mills
Robert Morrow, Winzler & Kelly
Vickie Newlin, Butte County Water &
Resource Conservation
Melanie Powers, no stated affiliation
Judi Quan, California Alliance for Jobs

George Visger, GeoEngineers
Lorraine White, CA Energy Commission
Emilia Wisniewski, East Bay Municipal
Utility District

DWR and Facilitation Staff

Bev Anderson, Sacramento River
Conservation Area Forum
Lisa Beutler, CCP
Megan Fidell, DWR
Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR
Jennifer Kofoid, DWR
Lew Moeller, DWR
Sogol Moghadam, DWR
David Sumi, CCP
Jim Wilde, DWR