



Land Use & Natural Resources Committee

January 30, 2014

North State Water Alliance Update

Issue: An educational handout has been drafted to help explain various issues related to water resources.

Recommendation: None; this item is for committee discussion to provide staff with guidance on edits to the water resources educational handout.

Discussion: Over the last two years, SACOG staff has been working with the North State Water Alliance (NSWA) to identify water resources challenges and possible solutions. The NSWA includes: SACOG, Regional Water Authority, Northern California Water Association, Mountain Counties Water Resources Association, and Metro Chamber. This coalition was formed to address mutual concerns about the impacts of state and federal water resources policy that affect Northern California.

At the January board meeting, members of the NSWA presented current challenges to the region's water resource, including: drought is threatening urban and agricultural water supply, a draft Bay-Delta Conservation Plan is being reviewed, a statewide water bond is scheduled for the November election, the State Water Resources Control Board is setting flow standards, and there are several other imminent issues. With the help of NSWA partners, SACOG developed an educational handout that explains these issues, their possible impacts, the agencies involved, and the timelines. Staff and NSWA members will provide detail on the structure and content of the handout and are seeking recommendations from the committee on edits that would make the handout more useful.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Chief Executive Officer

MM:DS:ts
Attachment

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WATER ISSUES FACING THE NORTH STATE

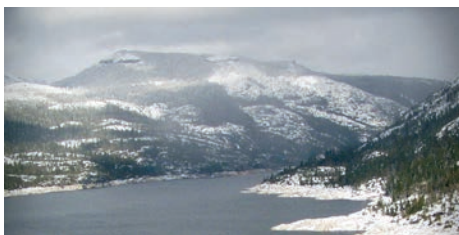
OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, CONGRESS, THE STATE LEGISLATURE, FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATORS, AND VOTERS WILL MAKE DECISIONS THAT WILL IMPACT THE NORTH STATE.

TRENDS



Growth

California is still a fast-growing state, with over 8.8 million new residents expected by 2035. That increase is more people than the current population of all but 10 other states.



Climate Change

Climate change could have significant impacts on water supply in California through rising sea level and reduced snowpack. Climate change may also result in increased water demand due to higher average temperatures.



Environmental Regulation

Environmental regulations related to water delivery have increased at all levels of government. Regulations are limiting current and future water supply options.

WATER ISSUES

Drought

Challenges from drought have increased as demand for water grows due to increases in population, environmental needs, and planting of permanent crops. During drought periods, surface water supplies are reduced, storage is depleted, and groundwater pumping increases – making water more expensive and drawing down aquifers.

Governor Brown declared a drought emergency in January 2014.

Flow Standards

State Water Resources Control Board sets water quality objectives and flow requirements for rivers to protect downstream environmental resources in the Delta. Northern California may be required to release or forego water to meet these objectives.

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

California Natural Resources Agency and **Department of Water Resources** is developing the BDCP, which is a plan intended to improve water reliability for export, and improve the environment in the Delta. Projects include tunnels, levee improvements and habitat restoration.

2014 Water Bond

The **Legislature** intends to reduce or delay the \$11 billion water bond scheduled for the November 2014 statewide ballot to something closer to a \$5-7 billion bond.

Biological Opinion

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is developing new operating criteria and plan for the Central Valley Project in response to a court ruling that the Biological Opinions issued for Delta Smelt and Chinook Salmon were deficient.

Folsom Reservoir Operations

The **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**, in cooperation with the **Bureau of Reclamation**, is updating the water control manual to reflect the new spillway structure at Folsom Dam. Recent reports

project that the water level may be too low to provide any municipal water in one out of every ten years.

Urban Water Supply Shortages

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation sets a Municipal and Industrial (M&I) Shortage Policy for Central Valley Project urban water contractors, including many water suppliers. The policy prescribes reductions system-wide when there are shortages farther upstream.

Agricultural Shortages

Agricultural water suppliers may have their water supplies reduced under their water rights and contracts when full supplies are not available in the rivers.

Mandated Conservation

In 2009, the **Governor Schwarzenegger** signed SB 7, which requires urban water providers to meet conservation targets by 2020. In the Sacramento region, urban water suppliers must reduce per capita use by 20%. Agricultural water suppliers were also required to implement conservation measures.

Delta Plan

In 2013, the **Delta Stewardship Council** adopted the first Delta Plan. The Council is now implementing the plan and coordinating with other entities. Projects within the Delta must be consistent with the Delta Plan.

Storage

Storage, either through new or expanded reservoirs, or groundwater banking, is also being discussed. One new reservoir that has been discussed is at Sites, approximately 70 miles north of Sacramento. Existing reservoirs may be re-operated to increase water yield.

Headwater Protection and Restoration

Forest watersheds in the Sierra Nevada that provide nearly all of the state's drinking water are at risk. Threats include overgrowth, past forestry practices, invasive species, and wildfires.

STATEWIDE WATER PLANS

Three notable plans have been proposed to offer a path toward more comprehensive water solutions that recognize northern California's unique role and needs in addressing not only Delta challenges, but issues throughout the system and state. Congressman John Garamendi offered a plan in March 2013 that includes a range of strategies such as conservation, recycling, new storage, right-sized Delta infrastructure improvements – including levees, and appropriate habitat improvements. In October 2013, the Association of California Water

Agencies released its Statewide Water Action Plan that has similar components and emphasizes Delta solutions that are consistent with a statewide plan and environmental stewardship actions throughout the Delta watershed, not just within the legal Delta. In November 2013, the Brown Administration released their version of a statewide water plan, the California Water Action Plan, which focuses on ten key actions. Below is an overview of the impacts of different issues from the North State perspective.

IMPACTS

COST BURDEN (STATE VS. BENEFICIARIES)

The cost of Delta and other water projects could be borne or shared by citizens of Northern California even if the benefits of those projects are not enjoyed by us.

DELTA COMMUNITIES

The availability of fresh water and ability to maintain, if not expand, existing and future enterprises is a key concern of communities in the Delta.

AGRICULTURAL WATER SUPPLY

Water demand for Delta ecosystems could reduce supply for agriculture thereby limiting cropping flexibility and economic viability.

LANDS FOR HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANS

Delta ecosystems could require conversion of agricultural lands to habitat resulting in production and revenue loss from those lands. These land requirements could also interfere with local conservation plans.

HABITAT WATER SUPPLY

Water needs for in-stream habitat north of the Delta could be challenged by fresh water demands for habitat within the Delta. Water availability for species-supporting crops could also be reduced.

URBAN WATER SUPPLY

Water needs for the Delta could reduce the availability of water for urban uses thereby reducing flexibility for housing and industry and potentially jeopardizing existing innovative plans for growth.

GROUNDWATER DRAW DOWN

More groundwater supply could be needed to offset loss of surface water, making water more expensive and further impacting already challenged aquifers.

ISSUES

TIMELINE

2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020

Drought



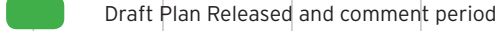
Flow Standards

State Water Resources Control Board



Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

California Natural Resources Agency and Department of Water Resources



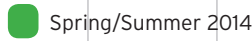
2014 Water Bond

State Legislature



Biological Opinions

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation



Folsom Reservoir Operations

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Urban Water Supply Shortages

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation



Agricultural Shortages



Mandated Conservation

mandated target by 2015

mandated target by 2020



Delta Plan

Delta Stewardship Council and State Water Resources Control Board



Storage



Headwater Protection and Restoration



CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

The Natural Resources Agency is the cabinet-level agency responsible for natural resources (including water issues) in California.

John Laird is the Secretary of Natural Resources (gubernatorial appointee).

Janelle Beland is Undersecretary (gubernatorial appointee).

Karla Nemeth is BDCP Program Director.

Laura King Moon is Chief Deputy.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR)

DWR is under the Natural Resources Agency, and among other responsibilities, is the lead agency seeking permits to operate the State Water Project's Delta facilities under the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

Mark Cowin is the Director of DWR (gubernatorial appointee). Prior to his appointment, he served as Deputy Director of Integrated Water Management for DWR.

Laura King Moon is the Deputy Director of DWR (gubernatorial appointee). Prior to her appointment, she was BDCP project manager.

DELTA CONSERVANCY

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy is a state agency within the Natural Resources Agency, and was established through legislation in 2010. It is governed by an 11-member board. The Conservancy works in collaboration with local communities, interested groups and state and federal agencies to seek creative opportunities to address challenges and reach agreement for moving these efforts forward.

Campbell Ingram is the Executive Officer.

Ken Vogel is the Chair, and is a San Joaquin County Supervisor.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Fish and Wildlife maintains native fish, wildlife, plant species and natural communities for their intrinsic and ecological value and their benefits to people.

Chuck Bonham is the Director.

CALIFORNIA WATER COMMISSION

The California Water Commission is responsible for evaluating the public benefits of storage projects.

Joseph Byrne is the Chair.

Sue Sims is the Executive Director.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Interior serves as steward for approximately 20 percent of the nation's lands; oversees the responsible development of conventional and

renewable energy supplies on public lands and waters; and is the largest supplier and manager of water in the 17 Western states.

Sally Jewell is the Secretary of the Interior.

U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Part of Department of Interior, the Bureau operates in 17 western states, is the largest wholesaler of water in the country and the second-largest producer of hydroelectric power from its dams.

Michael L. Connor is Commissioner (presidential appointee), and has held this position since 2009.

David Murillo is the Mid-Pacific Regional Director, and his office oversees the Central Valley Project in California.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Fish and Wildlife is the nation's principal Federal agency dedicated to the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats.

Dan Ashe is the Director of Fish and Wildlife.

Ren Lohofener is the Regional Director, Pacific Southwest.

LEGISLATURE

Two legislative committees are responsible for changes to the Water Bond. The Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee is chaired by Assembly member **Anthony Rendon**, who represents southeast Los Angeles. The vice chair is **Frank Bigelow**, who represents a large district stretching from Madera to Auburn. The Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee is chaired by **Fran Pavley**, who represents eastern Ventura County. The vice chair is **Anthony Canella**, who represents San Benito, Madera, Merced, and Stanislaus counties.

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

The Delta Stewardship Council was created in legislation to achieve the state mandated coequal goals for the Delta: (1) reliable water supply for California and (2) protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The Council must achieve the coequal goals in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place.

Phil Isenberg is the Chair (gubernatorial appointee).

Randy Fiorini is a Member (gubernatorial appointee), and is the Council's lead on implementation of the Delta Plan.

Gloria D. Gray is a Member (Assembly Speaker appointee).

Patrick Johnson is a Member (Senate Rules appointee). He served 10 years in the Assembly and 10 years in the Senate.

Hank Nordhoff is a Member (gubernatorial appointee).

Larry Ruhstaller is a Member

Frank C. Camrell, Jr. is a Member (gubernatorial appointee).

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

The State Water Resources Control Board consists of five full-time salaried members, each filling a different specialty position. Each board member is appointed to a four-year term by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

Felicia Marcus is the Chair of the Water Board.

Frances Spivy-Weber is the Vice Chair of the Water Board.

Tam Doduc is a civil engineer member on the Water Board.

Steven Moore is a sanitary engineer member on the Water Board.

Dorene D'Adamo is a Member of the Water Board.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick is the U.S. Army Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

Major General Michael J. Walsh is the Deputy Commanding General, Civil and Emergency Operations. He exercises supervision over civil works activities of 8 engineer divisions and 38 districts, including Sacramento.

Colonel Michael J. Farrell is the District Commander of the Sacramento District.

NOAA

Under the Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is responsible for management of marine fisheries, including Central Valley salmon and steelhead.

Kathryn Sullivan is the Acting Director.

Will Stelle is the West Coast Region Director.

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

The Delta Protection Commission exists to ensure orderly, balanced conservation and development of Delta land resources and improved flood protection.

Erik Vink is the Executive Director.

Larry Ruhstaller is the Chair.