



Informational Item: Discussion of Commission Authority to develop methods for quantifying public benefits of water storage and related activities underway at DWR

Background

CWC Staff Counsel will further clarify the Commission’s authority to proceed with developing methods for quantifying public benefits of water storage. This will be a continuation of the discussion by the commission at their meeting on February 16, 2011. The Commission is given authority in SBX7-2, the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Act of 2012, passed as part of the Comprehensive Water Package in 2009. The Commission’s authority is defined as follows:

§ 79740. (c) Projects shall be selected by the commission through a competitive public process that ranks potential projects based on expected return for public investments as measured by the magnitude of the public benefits provided, pursuant to criteria established under this chapter.

§ 79744. In consultation with the Department of Fish and Game, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the department, the commission shall develop and adopt, by regulation, methods for quantification and management of public benefits described in Section 79743 by December 15, 2012. The regulations shall include the priorities and relative environmental value of ecosystem benefits as provided by the Department of Fish and Game and the priorities and relative environmental value of ecosystem benefits as provided by the State Water Resources Control Board.

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