

Agenda Item: 8
Meeting Date: March 16, 2011

Statement from Department of Fish and Game Representative:

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is committed to working with the California Water Commission, along with DWR and the Water Board, to develop methodologies to quantify the public benefits of water storage projects. Public benefits described in the Water Code include ecosystem improvements, water quality improvements, flood control benefits, emergency response, and recreational purposes. DFG has experience in all of these resource categories and stands ready to assist the Commission. As a steward of the public trust, DGF believes that environmental protection can be integrated with water development projects. We support the California Water Plan's strategic approach to sustainable, integrated resources management to ensure that multiple objectives including water supply reliability, water quality, flood protection, and environmental stewardship, are addressed in all resources management planning activities.

DFG is currently gathering information on our staff expertise and experience in economic valuation of natural resources. We are also looking for funding mechanisms to bring these resources to the table to provide assistance to the California Water Commission in this important work.

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