

SCOPE OF WORK

Quantification of SBX7-2 Public Benefits

1. Review and Summarize Public Benefits Categories

Identify the categories of public benefits that require quantification and summarize and clarify the analytical needs for each benefit category, including preferred analytical approach or approaches, time horizon (e.g., current condition, future conditions), geographic scope of analysis, and the range of project types and sizes for which the benefit would likely require quantification.

a. Summarize public benefit categories

Develop a white paper that describes and clarifies each of the public benefit categories identified in SB7X-2. The paper will serve as a standard for reference by the project team and cooperating agencies when discussing analytical approaches and available tools.

b. Create a glossary of definitions

Prepare a glossary for the white paper that defines key words, phrases, and concepts related to public benefits and to the quantification of public benefits. This glossary will be the basis for the Definitions section of a proposed regulation on quantification of public benefits.

Prepare a summary that compares and contrasts the public benefit categories to how those benefits are defined for purposes of standardized feasibility analysis and benefit-cost analysis (focusing on the State's Economic Analysis Guidebook and the Federal Principles and Guidelines).

2. Identify, Screen, and Summarize Available Tools and Methods

a. Identify and screen potential tools and methods

Prepare a list of potential tools and methods that may be used to assess public benefits. An initial screening will be made to eliminate from consideration those tools and methods that are outdated, no longer supported, or judged by the Agency Technical Team to be inappropriate for use.

b. Prepare summary descriptions of existing tools and methods

Prepare a summary of the existing tools and methods that pass the initial screening. Each tool or method description will include: background on development, analytical structure and assumptions, inputs and outputs, general benefit categories addressed, geographic coverage, limitations, and examples of use.

c. Develop scope for advisory panel and for stakeholder input

Prepare a list of the public benefits topics, tools, and methods that could be used to elicit assistance and review by an advisory panel of outside experts, if one is created. Prepare public benefits topics, tools, and methods for presentation to stakeholder groups.

3. Develop evaluation criteria and apply to the tools and methods

a. Develop detailed characteristics of tools or methods for quantifying public benefits

Develop a list of criteria to apply to the tools and methods for each of the public benefits categories. The list will include minimum requirements for any tool or method, plus additional desired characteristics that can be used to compare alternative tools and methods.

Criteria will include validity and robustness of benefits estimation method, the level of effort (time and cost) needed to implement the method, flexibility to address different kinds of potential projects, quality and availability of input data, and level of detail available in output (including geographic resolution, time scale, and time horizon). Some or all of these criteria are expected to form the basis for the California Water Commission's regulations on quantification of public benefits.

b. Assess capability of existing tools and methods to meet desired characteristics

Conduct an assessment of the ability of existing tools to provide quantification of public benefits. The assessment will identify existing tools that can be used to quantify public benefits with no or only minor modification (such as post-processing calculations) and will identify public benefits categories that require significantly improved or new tools.

4. Prepare a report on tools and methods for public benefits

The report will incorporate results and recommendations from the all tasks and subtasks. It will describe how the methods can be used for evaluating the different categories of public benefits for different kinds, locations, and sizes of projects. The report will also provide guidance on how the methods can be incorporated into a regulation and associated guidelines for quantifying public benefits for purposes of allocating public funds pursuant to SBX7-2.

Schedule

Scope of Work Sub-task	Target Completion Date, or time from date of Task Order Execution (TOE)
1.(a, b) Review and Summarize Public Benefits Categories	June 30, 2011
2.(a, b) Identify, Screen, and Summarize Available Tools and Methods	June 30, 2011
2.(c) Develop scope for advisory panel	July 31, 2011
3.(a) Develop detailed characteristics of tools or methods for quantifying public benefits	July 31, 2011
3.(b) Assess capability of existing tools and methods to meet desired characteristics	August 31, 2011
4.(a) Prepare internal review draft Report	September 15, 2011
4.(b) Prepare final Report	October 15, 2011