

**AUBURN DAM COUNCIL**  
c/o P.O. Box 15221  
Sacramento, California 95851-0221

March 29, 2012

Ajay Goyal, P.E.  
c/o California Water Commission  
Department of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 942836  
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COMMENTS REGARDING: PUBLIC BENEFIT CRITERIA FOR PROPOSED REGULATIONS  
FOR RANKING WATER STORAGE PROJECTS, PURSUANT TO SBX7-2

Dear Mr. Goyal:

The California Water Commission's (CWC) effort to pursue additional water storage projects in California is quite timely. Key threats to water yield depletion in California, be it regulatory, physical infrastructure, or climatically driven, offer, what some leading water agencies here in California and around the world call, "New opportunities to protect existing water portfolios from this continuous array of threats". In assessing potential water storage projects, quantitatively, in this case, those projects listed in SBX7-2, the Auburn Dam Council believes that the draft proposed regulations regarding public benefits, as defined in SBX7-2, Section 79743, for the purpose of public financing of water storage projects, should consider each of the following elements, within the following three major categories:

General benefits:

- Quantity of water stored, in acre-feet
  - Should contribute to overall State water system capacity, in acre-feet
  - Should serve local and regional needs, in acre-feet of supply
  - Downstream water quality improvement(s), quantified in specific units
  - Conjunctive use, in acre feet
- Rate of fill, thus, reservoir turnover, yield in acre-feet
- Combine with related project(s), number of projects related, cumulative impact
- Flood control benefits, i.e., cost avoidance in billions of dollars and number of lives at risk (Sacramento and Delta regions)
- Recreation, weighted by forms of recreation provided (including hunting and fishing)
  - Protection of existing downstream recreation areas
  - Contribution to year-round recreational opportunities and revenue in dollars
- Emergency response
  - Fire protection: dollars saved from wildfire damage and fire protection contracts with fire agencies
  - Salt water intrusion, cost of flushing and cost to fisheries

Environmental/Ecosystem Improvements:

- Endangered Species Act requirements—Delta smelt Salmon smolt saved
- Delta Pulse-flow
  - Proximity to Delta, time in hours of delivery
  - Maintain increased flow rate requirements, in cubic feet per second
  - Maintain adequate fresh water supply, in acre-feet
- Fisheries Improvements
  - Maintain adequate lower river flow rates, in cubic feet per second
  - Lower river temperature control in Summer, Fall, and as needed for fisheries
- Wetlands maintenance
  - Moisture and Salinity control
  - Water fowl habitat

Quantifiable economic/revenue-generating:

- Water available for sale, in acre-feet per year (or off set prices to degree water is used for a "Public Trust Resource benefit " purpose, like fisheries)
- Electric power available for sale, in hundreds of megawatts
  - Western States benefit to Grid stability, i.e., avoid brown-outs and black-outs, and lives of infirmed and elderly saved
- Regional flood insurance premiums deferred (i.e., willingness to pay),in dollars per household per year
- Flood loses avoided
- Revenue from Recreation (i.e., willingness to pay), in millions of dollars per year

I trust that the forgoing will help in deliberations, as the proposed Public Benefit regulations are prepared. Thank you for the opportunity of providing comments for this effort. If you have any questions, or need further clarification, on theses comments, please contact me at [kenpayne65@yahoo.com](mailto:kenpayne65@yahoo.com) or at 916-215-7246.

Kindest Regards,



Ken Payne, Chairman

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