



Discussion of Commission priorities and next steps concerning Quantification of Public Benefits issues

Background

SB X7-2, the Safe, Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act, requires the California Water Commission to develop and adopt by regulation methods for quantifying the public benefits of water storage projects - including CALFED surface storage, groundwater storage, conjunctive use and reservoir reoperation, and local and regional surface storage - by December 15, 2012. However, this section of law is operative only if the bond act is approved by voters. The act was originally on the November 2010 statewide election and moved to November 2012. In July 2012, the Legislature passed and Governor Brown signed Assembly Bill 1422 (Perea) which provides for the submission of the bond act to the voters at the November 4, 2014 statewide general election.

In March 2011, the Water Commission directed DWR staff to prepare work products on quantification and management of public benefits. The purpose was to assist the Commission in meeting the statutory requirement that existed at that time to adopt regulations by December 15, 2012 if the bond act was approved by voters. This work included:

- A survey of economic methods for the quantifications of public benefits to assist the Commission in identifying available and potential tools and methodologies;
- Input on how various tools can be applied to the different types of public benefits and types of projects;
- Input in development of language for regulations and guidelines;
- Consistent with Water Code §79744, DWR was directed to work in coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board and Department of Fish and Game (DFG) on the priority and relative environmental benefits of Water Quality benefits and Ecosystem benefits, respectively.

At the August 2012 meeting, DWR presented its previously drafted documents and work products to the Commission. The Commission discussed the work and identified issues and questions that required further discussion.

Not all Commission members were present at the August meeting, so staff will be available to review its earlier presentation to the Commission for the benefit of all members. Staff will also review a list of questions regarding public benefits that require additional consideration to serve a basis for

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discussion at future meetings. If time allows, the Commission may begin to discuss the first issue at hand.

Attachments

Items for Follow-up Discussion, Revisions, or Additions to Documents

Contact

Sue Sims

Executive Officer

California Water Commission

(916) 653-5544