



Discussion of Issues Regarding Public Benefits of Water Projects

Background

SB X7-2, the Safe, Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act, requires the California Water Commission to develop 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 if the proposed water bond act is approved by voters at the November 4, 2014 election.

In March 2011, the Water Commission directed DWR to prepare work products on quantification and management of public benefits. These documents included a survey of economic tools and methods that are available to quantify the public benefits of water projects, and working drafts of potential language for inclusion in regulations and guidelines. These documents were presented to the Commission on August 15, 2012 and discussed further at the September 2012 meeting.

Through this process, staff has identified policy issues and questions which will be key in this and other ongoing discussions of public financing strategies for public benefits. These include, but are not limited to, the water financing plan being developed as part of the California Water Plan Update 2013, the public financing component for flood management activities, and other funding opportunities for water management and ecosystem services. In addition, staff has prepared a list of questions related to funding implementation and guidelines, which may be useful in the future. At this meeting, the Commission will continue its discussion of these key issues.

Attachments

Quantification of Public Benefits Items for Follow-Up Discussion

Contact

Sue Sims
Executive Officer
California Water Commission
Phone: (916) 653-5544