



Discussion of Issues Regarding Public Benefits of Water Projects

Background

The California Water Commission has begun a process to consider information from DWR, other public agencies, NGOs, stakeholders, and the public on methods for quantifying and managing the public benefits of water projects.

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 to quantify the public benefits of water projects, and working drafts of potential language for inclusion in regulations and guidelines that the Commission must develop if the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act, a proposed bond measure currently on the November 2014 statewide ballot, is approved by voters. These documents were presented to the Commission on August 15, 2012 and discussed further at the September and October 2012 meetings. At the October 2012 meeting, staff presented a document, "Items for Follow-up Discussion" a summary of issues requiring additional Commission and public review, input, and direction. At this meeting, the Commission will continue its discussion of the key issues in this document.

DWR Director Mark Cowin has been invited to speak on this agenda item. DWR staff will then make a presentation to the Commission on water quality and public benefits, one of the identified issues to be considered by the Commission.

Following the November meeting, CWC staff will prepare a summary document on water quality discussions and any Commission recommendations made at this meeting. This document, together with summaries of other issues to be discussed at future Commission meetings, including ecosystem and recreation, will be circulated for additional public comment. Staff is proposing a public workshop in the spring to solicit further public input and discussion, as part of the Commission's decision making process.

Attachments

Issue Paper 1. CWC Public Benefits Discussion: Water Quality Benefits
Items for Follow-up Discussion

Contact

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