



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 its November 2012 meeting the Commission discussed the first item on that list, the definition of water quality benefits.

At this meeting, the Commission will continue its discussion of the key issues in this document.

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

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