



**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 definitions related to water quality benefits. At its December 2012 meeting, the Commission discussed the definitions related to ecosystem benefits.

At this meeting, DWR staff will make a presentation to the Commission on recreation public benefits, one of the issues identified for Commission consideration.

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

**Attachments**

Issue Paper 3. CWC Public Benefits Discussion: Recreation Benefits  
Items for Follow-up Discussion: Policy Questions

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Meeting Date: January 16, 2013  
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