



Briefing on DWR System Reoperation Study

Background

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is conducting a system reoperation study in cooperation with other State and federal agencies, local water districts, groundwater managers, and other stakeholders, to identify potential strategies for reoperation of the statewide flood protection and water supply systems. The basis for the study is that California can do much more with its existing water infrastructure by taking advantage of the physical interconnections (and enhancing them) while also operating the system in a coordinated manner to optimize the benefits. The State Legislature recognized this opportunity in Senate Bill X2 1 (Perata, 2008). In support of the legislative objectives, DWR developed the Study to identify viable reoperation strategies and understand how integrated management can:

- Improve the reliability of municipal and irrigation water supply
- Reduce flood hazards
- Restore and protect ecosystem function and habitat conditions
- Buffer the hydrologic variations expected from climate change
- Improve water quality

The current focus of the study is the Central Valley because this region has the highest integration of water supply and flood management facilities. Additionally, the greatest potential for ecosystem restoration through infrastructure reoperation is found in the Central Valley because the existing infrastructure has had a profound effect on aquatic ecosystems.

Development of the study is a multi-phased effort that includes:

- Phase 1 – Plan of Study (Completed in 2011)
- Phase 2 – Strategy Formulation and Refinement (Completed in 2014)
- Phase 3 – Preliminary Assessments of Strategies (To be Completed in 2015)
- Phase 4 – Reconnaissance Level Assessments of Strategies (To be Completed in 2016)

At this meeting Ajay Goyal, Chief of DWR's Surface Storage investigations branch will brief the Commission on the Systems Reoperation Study.

Contact

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