CVP M&I Water Shortage Policy Review Stakeholder Workshop #2 Summary

June 23, 2010
Sacramento, California

Objectives of the WSP Review Process:

- Review CVP M&I Water Shortage Policy (WSP) status
- Enhance understanding of WSP
- Obtain input from CVP contractors and public (Stakeholders)
- Help guide decisions on WSP

Objectives of Today's Workshop:

- Discuss CVP system and allocation process
- Discuss key terms of the WSP
- Review current WSP implementation
  - Public health and safety calculation
  - Shortage calculation examples
- Chart path for next workshops
- Results from previous workshops
  - Policy clarity
  - Implementation process
  - Interpretation examples
  - Water source, historical use, and adjustments
  - Health and safety consideration/calculations

I. CVP System Overview

An overview of water supply vs. demand information and relationship to CVP allocation announcements was presented.

II. Key Terms of the WSP

A. What are Reclamation's sources of information for non-CVP supplies?

B. Is the reliability of non-CVP supplies taken into consideration? Are estimates revised if non-CVP supplies become available mid-year?

C. How is recycled water considered? Recycled water should be considered as a discussion topic for a future workshop.

III. Public Health & Safety Calculations

A. Are public health and safety calculations performed on a calendar year or water year basis?

B. Could historical use exceed 100% of contract total?

C. Contractors believed that historical use was also being adjusted when M&I allocations are between 75% and 100%. Are non-CVP supplies considered when M&I allocations are above 75%? The 2001 Draft WSP states that historical use can be adjusted in any type of year.

D. Reclamation has stated that CVP water should be considered a supplemental supply; however, the current policy essentially encourages contractors to maximize use of CVP water in unconstrained years to increase their baseline historical use. This provides an incentive to use CVP water as a primary supply.

E. The "Additional Considerations" document states that "Reclamation may also rely on M&I Contractors' Water Needs Assessments…." Is the use of "may" versus "shall" intentional?

F. What data is Reclamation using from the water needs assessments?

IV. Shortage Calculation Examples

A. Where does the CVP water needed to meet historical use adjustment come from?

B. How does non-CVP supply availability calculate into the public health and safety calculation if districts have not historically used that supply?

C. The Draft WSP states that in times of extraordinary circumstances, Reclamation may want to vary M&I allocations between contractors depending upon contractors' non-CVP supplies. What is the threshold for extraordinary circumstances that trigger Reclamation discretion?

D. How does Reclamation factor in carryover in historical use? Carryover is used as a drought protection measure.

E. Currently, there is no defined "exceptional circumstances." Does the public health and safety calculation include indoor and outdoor use?

F. Ag contractors are concerned that the WSP has the potential to reduce irrigation allocations in order to support growth.

G. There is concern with developing a policy that is too narrowly focused could reduce contractor flexibility to respond to changing in water supply environment.

V. General Comments

A. Contractors like the idea of seeing elaboration on the adjustments to historic use at the next workshop, and further discussing the current disincentive for treating the CVP as a supplemental supply.

B. What is Reclamation's plan for finalizing the WSP?

VI. Reclamation Action Items

A. Confirm whether Reclamation made the determination that 2009 was an unconstrained year for the American River.

2009 was an unconstrained year for the American River Division.

B. Provide the basis for the 75% threshold for historical use adjustment.

In Reclamation's February 1994 draft M&I WSP, two levels were established: 1) 75% of historical use adjusted for growth and extraordinary water conservation measures were established as the minimum level of reliability; and 2) public health and safety. (June 9, 1997 paper on Urban Water Supply Reliability, Mid-Pacific Region CVPIA Administrative Proposals [1998]). These two levels were retained in the 2001 M&I WSP.

C. Provide examples of how population growth, extraordinary water conservation, and non-CVP supply adjustments are calculated.

Examples will be provided at Workshop 3.