

Preliminary Measures List

Newlands Project Planning Study

In addition to Truckee Canal rehabilitation, the following actions could be pursued to improve the availability or reliability of water supplies for the Newlands Project. This list is not exhaustive, and the Newlands Project Planning Study team welcomes additional ideas. None of these measures have been evaluated at this time. All measures will be screened against considerations such as public acceptability and environmental considerations during the alternatives formulation process.

Supply Improvement Measures

Increase Truckee Canal Inflow to Lahontan Reservoir

Serve Truckee Division from Alternate Diversions - *includes actions such as developing a river intake for diversion of surface water rights, and development of pipelines or local groundwater projects to serve agricultural lands in the Truckee Division.*

Reduce Seepage from Truckee Canal or Laterals - *includes actions such as lining or converting the Truckee Canal or its laterals to a pipeline in order to reduce seepage losses.*

Increase Carson River Storage

Increase Lahontan Dam Storage – *includes actions such as retrofitting the flash-boards at Lahontan Dam to allow for surcharging.*

Build New Reservoirs – *includes actions such as building reservoirs in the Carson River basin to store water and reduce reservoir losses from spill during surplus conditions.*

Increase Carson River Inflow to Lahontan Reservoir

Stricter Enforcement of Carson River Water Rights – *includes actions such as more stringent monitoring and enforcement of the Alpine Decree to increase the efficiency of water use on the upper Carson River.*

Develop Alternative Sources

Local Groundwater Improvements – *includes actions such as seeking the development of local groundwater rights to augment water supplies.*

Agricultural Drain-Water Re-Use – *includes actions such as increasing the use of drain water to reduce demands for supplies from Lahontan Reservoir and the Truckee Canal.*

Import Groundwater – *includes actions such as importing water from Dixie Valley to augment water supplies in the Carson Division during dry conditions.*

Access Upper Truckee River Storage

Deliver Donner Lake Water - *allows for delivery of TCID supplies in Donner Lake to Lahontan Reservoir through the Truckee Canal.*

Store Water in Upstream Truckee River Reservoirs – *allows for storage of Newlands Project water in upper Truckee River reservoirs.*

Please use the comment cards and/or map handouts to provide the Study team input and recommend additional ideas for consideration.

Demand Management Measures

Increase Project Delivery Efficiency

Automate Canal and Drain Structures – *includes actions such as installing SCADA controls on central distribution structures to improve the precision and timeliness of water deliveries.*

Reduce Seepage from Carson Division Canals or Laterals – *includes actions such as lining or replacing canals, laterals with pipelines to reduce seepage losses.*

Meter Deliveries – *includes actions such as installing water meters on turn-outs to improve the efficiency of water deliveries.*

Drain Canals in Non-irrigation Season – *involves reducing water stages in all canals during the non-irrigation season to reduce seepage losses.*

Improve On-Farm Efficiencies

Improve On-Farm Technology – *includes programs to supplement technological improvements, such as laser-leveling fields, for irrigators within the Project.*

Subsidize Crop Conversions – *includes programs to assist with the conversion of current crops to alternative crops with lower water demands and agreements to allow the difference in demand to go unclaimed, thus reducing the total demand of the Newlands Project.*

Shorten Irrigation Season – *includes actions such as reducing the allowable irrigation season, therefore reducing the total annual demand for water.*

Transfer, Idle or Retire Rights

Crop Insurance Programs – *includes insurance programs to assist with periods of drought when supplies are reduced or unavailable.*

Drought-Year Fallowing Programs – *includes programs to identify farms with willingness to fallow crops during drought years, thus reducing the total demand in dry conditions.*

Strategic Land Consolidation or Buy-Out Programs – *includes identifying portions of the Newlands Project on the least efficient canals and laterals and providing economic incentives to re-locate or otherwise retire those lands from service, thus increasing the efficiency of the Project.*

Transfer or Lease Water Rights – *includes actions such as transferring or leasing water rights from the Carson Division to water users within the Truckee River basin, thus reducing the overall demand for water by the Newlands Project.*

Restructure Fees and Prices

Community Rotation System/Group Deliveries by Area – *includes actions such as rotating water rights within a particular community during dry years.*

Base Pricing or Fees on Use – *includes changing the basis for fees to consider the volume of water delivered, thus creating economic incentives for on-farm efficiency.*

Base Pricing or Fees on Delivery Costs – *includes changing the basis for fees to include the cost of water deliveries to each user, thus creating economic incentives to retire lands along the least efficient conveyances in the Newlands Project.*

Please use the comment cards and/or map handouts to provide the Study team input and recommend additional ideas for consideration.

August 2011