SRWRS
Sacramento River Water Reliability Study

Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report

Prescoping Discussion

Introduction

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), and the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) propose to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the Sacramento River Water Reliability Study (SRWRS). Reclamation is the Lead Agency for NEPA and PCWA is Lead Agency for CEQA. A Notice of Intent/Notice of Preparation was distributed per requirements of NEPA and CEQA.

This prescoping document is provided by Reclamation and PCWA to assist in the scoping process by describing the historical framework for the SRWRS, the project and its water supply alternatives, and potential project impacts. The schedule and locations for the scoping meetings are also included.

Study Development

The goal of the SRWRS is to develop a water supply plan that is consistent with the Water Forum Agreement (April 24, 2000) objectives of pursuing a Sacramento River diversion to meet water supply needs of the Placer-Sacramento region and promoting ecosystem preservation along the lower American River. The project location is the greater Sacramento metropolitan area, encompassing portions of southern Sutter County, northern Sacramento County, and western and southern Placer County (see figure on page 3).

The SRWRS will include a feasibility study and an EIS/EIR for identified water supply alternatives as the basis for seeking necessary Biological Opinions and permits from the responsible resource agencies to allow execution of necessary agreements and construction of the recommended water supply infrastructure. Development of the SRWRS will be consistent with the following principles:

- Satisfying requirements stipulated in Public Law 106-554, the Congressional authorizing legislation for this study, to complete a feasibility study for a Sacramento River diversion that is consistent with the Water Forum Agreement and includes the following components: 1) development of a range of reasonable options, 2) an environmental evaluation, and 3) consultation with federal and

state resource management agencies regarding potential impacts and mitigation measures. Furthermore, Congress requires the SRWRS to be developed in coordination with the California Federal Bay-Delta Program (CALFED).

- Observing existing applicable laws, regulations, water rights, contracts and legal agreements, and federal planning guidelines, including, but not limited to, NEPA, federal planning guidelines such as *Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies*, CEQA, California Water Laws, and obligations of the cost-sharing partners in their charters and as defined in California laws.
- Minimizing overall impact on the environment to the extent feasible, being cost-effective, and complementing and enhancing the overall reliability of the Placer-Sacramento region's water supply system through increased interconnectivity and source redundancy.

The SRWRS plan will be consistent with the Water Forum Agreement in pursuing a Sacramento River diversion to accomplish the following objectives envisioned in the agreement: 1) meeting the needs of planned future growth within the Placer-Sacramento region, 2) maintaining a reliable water supply while reducing diversions of surface water from the American River in future dry years to preserve the river ecosystem, and 3) enhancing groundwater conjunctive management to help sustain the quality and availability of groundwater for the future.

SRWRS Authorization, Public Law 106-554 Appendix D Division B

SEC. 103. (a) In General.—The Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a feasibility study for a Sacramento River, California, diversion project that is consistent with the Water Forum Agreement among the members of the Sacramento, California, Water Forum dated April 24, 2000, and that considers—

(1) consolidation of several of the Natomas Central Mutual Water Company's diversions;
(2) upgrading fish screens at the consolidated diversion;
(3) the diversion of 35,000 acre feet of water by the Placer County Water Agency;
(4) the diversion of 29,000 acre feet of water for delivery to the Northridge Water District;
(5) the potential to accommodate other diversions of water from the Sacramento River, subject to additional negotiations and agreement among Water Forum signatories and potentially affected parties upstream on the Sacramento River; and
(6) an inter-tie between the diversions referred to in paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) with the Northridge Water District's pipeline that delivers water from the American River.

(b) Required Components.—The feasibility study shall include—

(1) the development of a range of reasonable options;
(2) an environmental evaluation; and
(3) consultation with Federal and State resource management agencies regarding potential impacts and mitigation measures.

(c) Water Supply Impact Alternatives.—The study authorized by this section shall include a range of alternatives, all of which would investigate options that could reduce to insignificance any water supply impact on water users in the Sacramento River watershed, including Central Valley Project contractors, from any delivery of water out of the Sacramento River as referenced in subsection (a). In evaluating the alternatives, the study shall consider water supply alternatives that would increase water supply for, or in, the Sacramento River watershed. The study should be coordinated with the CALFED program and take advantage of information already developed within that program to investigate water supply increase alternatives. Where the alternatives evaluated are in addition to or different from the existing CALFED alternatives, such information should be clearly identified.

(d) Habitat Management Planning Grants.—The Secretary of the Interior, subject to the availability of appropriations, is authorized and directed to provide grants to support local habitat management planning efforts undertaken as part of the consultation described in subsection (b)(3) in the form of matching funds up to $5,000,000.

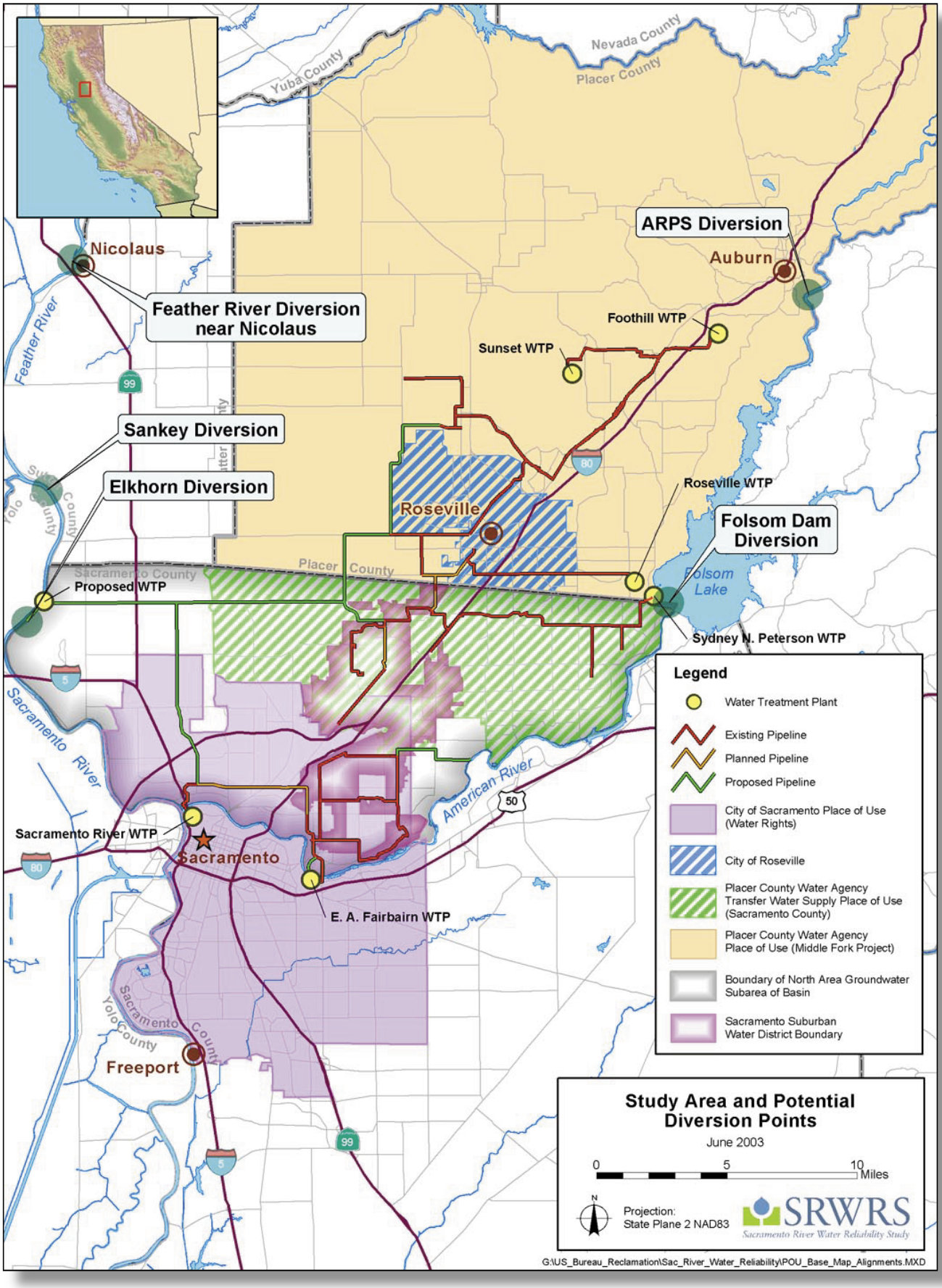
(e) Report.—The Secretary of the Interior shall provide a report to the Committee on Resources of the United States House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate within 24 months from the date of enactment of this Act on the results of the study identified in subsection (a).

(f) Authorization of Appropriations.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior to carry out this section $10,000,000, which may remain available until expended, of which—

(1) $5,000,000 shall be for the feasibility study under sub-section (a); and
(2) $5,000,000 shall be for the habitat management planning grants under subsection (d).

(g) Limitation on Construction.—This section does not and shall not be interpreted to authorize construction of any facilities.

SRWRS Study Area and Potential Diversion Points



Water Delivery Quantities

Four cost-sharing partners are participating in the SRWRS: PCWA, Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD), the City of Roseville (Roseville), and the City of Sacramento (Sacramento). The SRWRS cost-sharing partners have identified their long-term needs for additional water supplies to meet growing water supply demands and reliability objectives in their respective service areas. The table on the following page presents a summary of requests for additional surface water diversion and treatment capacity to balance 2030 demand and supply and to enhance water supply reliability.

The Reclamation Manual, Directives and Standards CMP 05-02, requires non-federal cost-sharing for the SRWRS. On June 26, 2002, PCWA signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Reclamation to share a minimum of 50 percent of the study cost. PCWA then entered into separate cost-sharing agreements with its third party cost-sharing partners: SSWD, Roseville, and Sacramento.

Water Forum Agreement and A Sacramento River Diversion

A Sacramento River diversion is a key component of the Water Forum Agreement's strategy to provide a safe and reliable water supply in the Sacramento/Placer county region while preserving the fishery, wildlife, and aesthetic values of the lower American River. This strategy supports and facilitates regional groundwater conjunctive management that is consistent with the environmentally preferred alternative of Reclamation's American River Water Resources Investigation (ARWRI).

Previous Programmatic Studies

Two key documents form the cornerstone of the SRWRS: ARWRI, which includes an EIS completed in September 1997, and the January 2000 Water Forum Agreement, which includes an EIR certified in November 1999.

Both the ARWRI and the Water Forum Agreement identified increased water supply needs resulting from planned growth in Placer and Sacramento counties, and recognized the importance of preserving the lower American River for its fishery, wildlife, recreational, and aesthetic values. The ARWRI identified an environmentally preferred alternative to meet the projected demands that includes additional surface water diversions from the American, Feather, and Sacramento rivers and regional groundwater conjunctive management.

The Water Forum Agreement was developed through collaboration among a diverse group of business and agricultural leaders, citizens groups, environmentalists, water managers, and local governments in Sacramento County and neighboring areas. The resulting Water Forum Agreement is consistent with the CALFED objectives to develop a locally initiated,

Paddlers on Lake Natomas below Folsom Dam (Nov. 2002)

regionally based approach for enhancing water supply reliability and to protect the watersheds and ecosystem.

Through preparation of a programmatic EIR, the Water Forum Agreement represents a locally initiated, regional solution to developing a strategic plan that provides a reliable and safe water supply for the region's economic health and planned development to 2030, and preserves the fishery, wildlife, recreational, and aesthetic values of the lower American River. Potential impacts from actions to support the planned development, including a Sacramento River diversion, were mitigated on a programmatic level by seven elements in the Water Forum Agreement (Element I: Increased Surface Water Diversions; Element II: Actions to Meet Customers' Needs While Reducing Diversion Impacts on the Lower American River in Drier Years; Element III: Support for an Improved Pattern of Fishery Flow Releases from Folsom Reservoir; Element IV: Lower American River Habitat Management Element; Element V: Water Conservation; Element VI: Groundwater Management Element; and Element VII: Water Forum Successor Effort).

Water Delivery Quantities Considered in the SRWRS

Water Purveyor	Requested Maximum Additional Annual Water Deliveries (AF)	Source	Type of Use	Requested Treatment Capacities (mgd)	Purpose of Requested Treatment Capacities
Placer County Water Agency	35,000	Central Valley Project	M&I	65	Max-day demand
Sacramento Suburban Water District	29,000 [1]	Middle Fork Project	M&I	15	Reliability and redundancy
City of Roseville	7,100 [2]	Middle Fork Project	M&I	10	Max-day demand
City of Sacramento	58,000 [3]	Water rights, water wheeling requests	M&I	165	Max-day demand (155 mgd) and redundancy (10 mgd)
Total	**129,100**			**255**	

[1] Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) would divert up to 29,000 AF per year in average, drier, and driest years only. The Water Forum Agreement allows SSWD to exercise this entitlement in wet years.

[2] City of Roseville would only consider additional diversions from a river other than the American River.

[3] The Water Forum Agreement does not establish a volumetric limitation for the City of Sacramento's (Sacramento's) total diversion, and the estimated additional water supply to meet its projected demand is about 58,000 AF per year, based on the difference between the projected demand and the simulated average diversion for Sacramento that could be realized using then-existing diversion facilities on the American and Sacramento rivers. However, Sacramento could divert up to 81,800 AF per year under its water rights on the Sacramento River at the Elkhorn site by reducing the diversion under its Sacramento River water rights at its existing Sacramento River Water Treatment Plant downstream of the confluence with the American River.

Key

AF – acre-feet
max-day - maximum-day
mgd – million gallons per day
M&I - municipal and industrial

Diversions from the Sacramento River Anticipated in the Water Forum Agreement

To implement the objective of preserving the lower American River, the Water Forum Agreement signatories, including SRWRS cost-sharing partners (PCWA, SSWD,[1] Roseville, and Sacramento), agreed on a set of year-type[2] dependent limitations on diversions from the American River, provided all required conditions were satisfied.

Affected diversions of SRWRS cost-sharing partners under their water rights and contract entitlements include: 1) PCWA's Central Valley Project (CVP) contract delivery of up to 35,000 acre-feet (AF) per year, 2) SSWD's water contract delivery of 29,000 AF per year from PCWA's Middle Fork Project (MFP) in non-wet years (i.e., "below Hodge," when March-through-November unimpaired flow to Folsom Lake is below 1.6 million AF), 3) Roseville's water contract delivery of up to 7,100 AF from either CVP or PCWA's MFP, and 4) Sacramento's water rights diversion from the American River. The bypass flow requirements limit the diversion rate by Sacramento at the Fairbairn Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and limit the total annual diversion from the American River in driest years. The forgone diversion due to the provisions in the Water Forum Agreement is up to 100 million gallon per day (mgd), or 155 cubic feet per second (cfs), during summer months when demand is at its peak.

The aforementioned limitations on diversions from the American River for PCWA, SSWD, and Sacramento were negotiated on the basis that these water purveyors would be able to divert the forgone amount from a diversion on the Sacramento River. Currently, PCWA and SSWD lack access to diversions on the Sacramento River or exchange agreements for such diversions. Similarly, Sacramento has a need for adequate diversion capacity on the Sacramento River to recover the forgone diversion at its Fairbairn WTP and provide surface water for retail, wholesale, and wheeling services to the region on a maximum-day (max-day) basis.

Potential Impacts to the Region Without a Sacramento River Diversion

The Water Forum Agreement anticipates a Sacramento River diversion. If the signatories observed the limitations on diversions from the American River without a Sacramento River diversion, the following consequences would affect the region:

Significant unmet demands resulting from existing beneficial uses and planned growth.

The projected unmet demand in 2030 is 34,500[3] AF per year in the PCWA service area and 5,000 AF per year in the Roseville service area (including the potential annexation area west of the current city limit). The surface water shortage ranges from 55 to 155 mgd in the region, that in the future would rely on Sacramento for retail, wholesale, and wheeling services. The actual volume of unmet demand varies by hydrologic conditions.

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[1] SSWD was formed in 2002 through consolidation of the former Arcade Water District and the former Northridge Water District. SSWD is the successor in interest to a Northridge Water District agreement with PCWA for 29,000 AF per year of Middle Fork Project (MFP) water used in a groundwater stabilization program. In 2000, as part of the Water Form Agreement, Northridge Water District entered into a Purveyor Specific Agreement that contains provisions for delivery of 29,000 AF per year from PCWA's MFP. After the consolidation, these provisions were applied to the applicable area within SSWD. Arcade Water District was not a Water Forum Agreement signatory. The Water Forum Successor Effort has recently approved a Purveyor Specific Agreement with SSWD, which applies to the entire District.

[2] The Water Forum Agreement defines year-types based on the cumulative amount of March-through-November unimpaired inflow to Folsom Lake: wet (above 1,600,000 AF), average (between 1,600,000 and 950,000 AF), drier (between 950,000 and 400,000 AF), and driest (below 400,000 AF).

[3] This estimated unmet amount is based on a slow-growth scenario. A future realized growth greater than the assumed slow-growth scenario would result in additional unmet demand.

Significant groundwater impacts to meet the unmet demand in PCWA and Roseville service areas.

The projected unmet demand of PCWA and Roseville would translate into further groundwater use directly or indirectly. PCWA would reallocate available surface water, including reduction in surface water allocation to agricultural use, and use groundwater as a primary municipal and industrial (M&I) supply in areas where allowed by local governing regulations (e.g., in the City of Lincoln but not within the unincorporated area of Placer County). Roseville also would increase groundwater use to meet the projected unmet demand.

Significant loss of in-lieu groundwater recharge opportunity for regional conjunctive management in Sacramento-Placer counties.

Limitations on SSWD's diversion of 29,000 AF per year from its contract entitlement in non-wet years (38 percent of years) would result in a reduction of at least 38-percent in-lieu recharge benefit associated with the PCWA-SSWD groundwater stabilization project. This in-lieu recharge opportunity would be reduced further if PCWA were to lower its contract delivery to SSWD by 10,000 AF in wet years as part of its resources reallocation to meet the projected demand in Placer County.

Roseville is currently developing an aquifer storage and recovery program to facilitate groundwater conjunctive management. This opportunity for conjunctive management would be lost if a Sacramento River diversion were unavailable.

Another regional opportunity would be lost in areas relying on retail, wholesale, and wheeling services from Sacramento. Water purveyors in these areas would have to resume groundwater pumping when the projected capacity shortage in surface water diversion from Sacramento occurred.

The combination of losing in-lieu recharge opportunities for conjunctive management and the current overdraft in the groundwater basin in the Placer-Sacramento region would result in additional depletion of the basin, risking the possibility of water quality deterioration and permanent loss of usable groundwater aquifer. In this circumstance, not only would the conjunctive management envisioned by the Water Forum Agreement be jeopardized, the regional water supply would become extremely unreliable as a result of depleting the supplemental supply. The potential breakdown of one of the two Water Forum co-equal objectives, providing adequate regional water supply reliability, could also significantly affect implementation of Water Forum Agreement strategies for the other co-equal objective of preserving the ecosystem along the lower American River.

Salmon migration near fish weir at Nimbus Fish Hatchery (Nov. 2002)

Alternatives Under Consideration

To meet water supply needs of the cost-sharing partners, the SRWRS will identify a package of water supply infrastructure components, including new or expanded diversion(s) from the Sacramento, Feather, or American rivers, and new or expanded water treatment and pumping facilities, storage tanks, and major transmission and distribution pipelines.

The alternatives currently under consideration in the SRWRS include a "No Project/No Action" alternative, the proposed project with joint diversion and treatment facilities for all cost-

sharing partners, and four additional alternatives. For these four alternatives, the partners may share facilities to a greater or lesser degree. Incremental analysis for multiple diversions for any alternative will be included if the study determines that it is necessary to differentiate potential impacts from cost-sharing-partner-specific measures in each alternative.

"No Project/No Action" Alternative

The "No Project/No Action" alternative would include only currently approved and permitted surface water resources for the cost-sharing partners. To meet projected water supply demands, the cost-sharing partners would reallocate available surface water and groundwater resources between M&I and agricultural uses (PCWA only), and among different wholesale and retail areas.

Proposed Project: Elkhorn Diversion Alternative

The proposed project encompasses constructing a joint diversion from the Sacramento River and treatment facilities to serve the cost-sharing partners.

The diversion facility would consist of expanding the existing Elkhorn Diversion owned by the Natomas Mutual Water Company (NMWC) and located on the east bank of the Sacramento River, upstream of the mouth of the American River at approximately river mile 73.3, or constructing a new diversion near the existing Elkhorn Diversion. The proposed project would have a total discharge capacity of 395 cfs. Raw water would be lifted from the pump station to an 84-inch pipeline through which it would be conveyed to a new WTP.

Sacramento River near Elverta Road (Dec. 2002)

The new WTP would be located off Elverta Road near the Garden Highway, and have a maximum capacity of 255 mgd. The WTP is expected to be located on a site with an area of approximately 100 acres. It is currently envisioned that the WTP would be owned and operated by Sacramento.

Treated water from the new WTP would be conveyed to serve SSWD via a transmission line that would connect to the west end of the existing Cooperative Transmission Pipeline/Northridge Transmission Pipeline in Antelope, and an extension of that line would be built north to the service areas of Roseville and PCWA. A separate transmission line would connect to Sacramento's existing distribution system along Elverta Road and Truxel Road.

Implementing a Sacramento River diversion for the cost-sharing partners would require a change in the point of diversion for PCWA's CVP contract and for Sacramento's Sacramento River water right permit, and an exchange agreement between Reclamation and PCWA for SSWD and Roseville diversions under their contract entitlements from PCWA's MFP.

Sankey Diversion Alternative

A Sankey Diversion alternative assumes that PCWA, SSWD, and Roseville would divert water from the Sacramento River near the confluence of the Sacramento River and the Natomas Cross Canal and build separate treatment, storage, and transmission facilities to meet their needs. This diversion would be located at or near the second diversion that NMWC is developing under its CALFED-supported diversion consolidation effort (American Basin Fish Screen and Habitat Improvement Project).

Sacramento would use groundwater to meet projected unmet demand or would divert separately from the Sacramento River at the Elkhorn site, and construct its own treatment and transmission facilities to serve its needs.

Feather River Near Highway 99 (Nov. 2002)

Feather River Diversion Alternative

A Feather River alternative assumes that PCWA, SSWD, and Roseville would divert water from the Feather River near Nicolaus and build separate treatment, storage, and transmission facilities to meet their needs. The CVP would not be able to provide water supply directly to any diversion location on the Feather River, and thus a further agreement with the State Water Project (SWP) and possibly a modification to the Coordinated Operations Agreement would be required for this alternative.

Sacramento would use groundwater to meet projected unmet demand or would divert separately from the Sacramento River at the Elkhorn site, and construct its own treatment and transmission facilities to serve its needs.

American River Pump Station Alternative

An American River Pump Station alternative assumes that PCWA would expand its American River Pump Station near Auburn and construct new treatment and transmission facilities to serve its needs. The CVP would not be able to provide a reliable water supply to PCWA at this location and thus, PCWA would divert from its MFP water rights. Reclamation would need to reassign PCWA's CVP contract entitlement to MFP water sale contractors who divert water at Folsom Dam (SSWD, Roseville, or San Juan Water District [SJWD]).

SSWD would divert from the existing SJWD diversion facilities at Folsom Dam. Roseville would increase use of groundwater to satisfy its needs in this alternative, but would have no additional surface water diversions. Sacramento would use groundwater to meet projected unmet demand or would divert separately from the Sacramento River at the Elkhorn site, and construct its own treatment and transmission facilities to serve its needs.

Folsom Dam Alternative

A Folsom Dam alternative assumes that PCWA and SSWD would use the existing or expanded diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities of SJWD at Folsom Dam. Roseville would increase use of groundwater to satisfy its needs in this alternative, but not have any additional surface water diversions. Sacramento would use groundwater to meet projected unmet demand or would divert separately from the Sacramento River at the Elkhorn site, and construct its own treatment and transmission facilities to serve its needs.

Potential Project Impacts

The EIS/EIR prepared for the SRWRS will build on background data and analysis contained in the EIS for the ARWRI and the EIR for the Water Forum Agreement. The EIS/EIR scoping process is designed to elicit comments from responsible and commenting agencies and the public on the scope of the EIS/EIR. Comments on potential impacts to be considered will be noted and incorporated as appropriate in the EIS/EIR.

To initiate the scoping process, a brief, initial list of potential impacts that may be attributable to the project and its alternatives and/or the cumulative conditions is included on page 11.

Indian Trust Assets

There are Indian Trust Assets located in Placer County, held in trust by the United States for the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria. Direct association between these assets and the proposed action are unknown at this time. There are no assets located in the greater Sacramento metropolitan area, southern Sutter County, or northern Sacramento County.

EIS/EIR Scoping Process

Reclamation and PCWA will seek public input on topics, issues, and alternatives to be considered in the EIS/EIR during scoping meetings in the month of September 2003. Scoping is an open process of eliciting comment on the contents of the EIS/EIR from responsible, trustee, and reviewing agencies, and interested parties. The views of your agency, relative to the statutory responsibilities of your agency in connection with the proposed project, are being solicited in an effort to determine the scope and content of the environmental document. The Draft EIS/EIR is anticipated to be available for public review in fall of 2005.

Dates and Addresses: The schedule and locations of SRWRS public scoping meetings are as follows:

- *Scoping Meetings 1 and 2: Monday, September 15, 2003, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., at Best Western Expo Inn, Expo Room, 1413 Howe Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95825.*
- *Scoping Meeting 3: Wednesday, September 17, 2003, 6 p.m., at Willows Memorial Hall, 525 West Sycamore Street, Willows, CA 95988.*
- *Scoping Meeting 4: Monday, September 22, 2003, 6 p.m., at Sutter County Veterans Hall, 1425 Veterans Memorial Drive, Yuba City, CA 95993.*
- *Scoping Meeting 5: Tuesday, September 23, 2003, 6 p.m., at Radisson Hotel, Delta IV Room, 2323 Grand Canal Boulevard, Stockton, CA 95207.*
- *Scoping Meeting 6: Wednesday, September 24, 2003, 6 p.m., at Rocklin City Council Chambers, 3970 Rocklin Road, Rocklin, CA 95677.*

Special Assistance: If special assistance is required for these meetings, please contact Ms. Sammie Cervantes of Reclamation at (916) 978-5104 no less than five working days before the meeting to allow Reclamation to secure the needed services. A telephone device for the hearing impaired (TDD) is available at (916) 978-5608.

Response to Notice of Intent/ Notice of Preparation

Written comments should be sent at the earliest possible date, and not later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 14, 2003, to Mr. Steve Yaeger c/o Ms. Darcy Granieri, Placer County Water Agency, P.O. Box 6570, Auburn, CA, 95604-6570 or Ms. Mona Jefferies-Soniea, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, MP-700, Sacramento, CA 95825. Please include your name and address so that Reclamation or PCWA can contact you directly if clarification is needed.

Disclosure of Public Comments

Our practice is to make comments available, including names and addresses of respondents, for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from public disclosure, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There may be other circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent's identity from public disclosure, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make available for public disclosure, in their entirety, all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses.

Initial List of Potential Impacts

Impacts may be attributable to the proposed project and its alternatives and/or the cumulative conditions

Potential Water Supply Impacts

- Some reduction in delivery to CVP contractors in the Sacramento Valley.
- Some reduction in water delivery south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) to CVP/SWP contractors.

Potential Botany Impacts

- Disturbance to, or loss of, riparian communities within the vicinity of diversion structures.
- Disturbance to, or loss of, special-status plant populations and sensitive habitats within active construction areas.
- Temporary disturbance to, or permanent loss of, sensitive botanical and wetland resources near active construction areas.

Potential Wildlife Impacts

- Disturbance to, or loss of, special-status wildlife or its habitat.
- Loss of nests of migratory bird species.

Potential Fisheries Impacts

- Flow- and water-temperature-related impacts to various life stages of anadromous salmonids and resident fisheries resources from alterations in the timing, duration, and magnitude of diversions.
- Adverse impacts to fisheries resources associated with species-specific life stages from changes in aquatic habitat availability.
- Fish impingement and entrainment at the point of diversion during operational and maintenance activities
- Increased predation of anadromous salmonids around diversion intake structures.

Potential Water Quality Impacts

- Adverse impacts to the quality of surface water and groundwater potentially caused by changes of sufficient magnitude and frequency over the long term to negatively affect designated beneficial uses, exceed existing regulatory standards, or substantially degrade water quality.
- Increased sedimentation/turbidity levels if dredging is required at any time for maintenance.
- Impacts on the integrated operations of CVP/SWP water facilities such that changes in reservoir, river, and/or Delta conditions may result in reduced water quality conditions.
- Potential to exacerbate groundwater overdraft, thereby decreasing reliability and quality of existing groundwater supplies (i.e., loss of in-lieu groundwater recharge opportunities for conjunctive management).

Potential Recreation Impacts

- Potential loss of marina (applicable to the Sankey diversion alternative only).
- Potential loss of quality of recreation opportunities (applicable to the Feather River diversion only).

Potential Land Use Impacts

- Disruption of an existing community (applicable to the Sankey diversion alternative only).

Potential Agricultural Resources Impacts

- Conversion of agricultural land to urban use for construction of the WTP off Elverta Road near the Garden Highway.

Potential Noise Impacts

- A temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.
- Long-term noise increase to the recreation experience for users near the pumps during their operation.

Potential Aesthetics Impacts

- Effects on a scenic vista or damage to scenic resources.
- Substantial degradation of the existing visual character or quality of the project site and its surroundings.
- Creation of a new source of substantial light or glare.
- Deterioration of the recreational experience at certain locations.

Potential Cultural Resources Impacts

- Disturbance of cultural resources due to construction.

Potential Growth Induced Impacts

- Indirect, growth-induced impacts resulting from availability of additional water supplies to support locally approved development (impacts not addressed by applicable local plans, including transportation/traffic, air quality, noise, public services, utilities and service systems, and conversion of agricultural land to other uses).

Sacramento River near Elverta Road (Dec. 2002)

For Further Information

Contact Ms. Mona Jefferies-Soniea, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, MP-700, Sacramento, CA 95825, telephone: 916-978-5068, fax: 916-978-5094, or Mr. Steve Yaeger, c/o Ms. Darcy Granieri, Placer County Water Agency, P.O. Box 6570, Auburn, CA, 95604-6570, telephone: 530-823-4962. Additional information is available on the following Web site: *http://www.usbr.gov/mp/srwrs*.

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SRWRS

Sacramento River Water Reliability Study

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