

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Development of Water Banking Guidelines for CVP Water

Outline

- **Objective**
- **Applicability**
Who will these guidelines apply to?
- **Criteria Central Valley Project (CVP) Groundwater Banking**
 - A. Duration – length of banking actions
 - B. Use of Banked Water – terms and conditions
 - C. Ability to Convey and Store – direct, in-lieu of, exchange agreement, etc...
 - D. Ability to Recover Banked Water
 - E. (3rd party) Impacts
 - F. Deposits – groundwater banking facility
 - G. Withdrawals – direct or exchange
 - H. Records – required documentation needed for approval
 - I. Schedule – banking water and return of water
 - J. Place of Use – in-lieu
 - K. Water Quality – compliance with applicable laws
 - L. Banking and Conveyance Losses – acceptable for losses by banking facility
 - M. Transfer of Banked Water
 - N. Administrative Requirements
 - 1. Banking Proposal
 - 2. Funding – deposits, reimbursement of costs, associated costs, etc...
 - O. Letter of Agreement Funding
 - 1. NEPA, ESA, State Law
 - 2. Contractor's responsibility
- **Responsibilities**
 - A. Contractors
 - B. Reclamation
- **Conditions For Approval**

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Development of Groundwater Banking Guidelines for CVP Water

Goals

The goal for preparing Groundwater Banking Guidelines is to provide criteria under which contractors who receive CVP water under water service or repayment contracts, settlement contracts or exchange contracts, can participate in water banking programs to bank CVP water outside their contract service areas.

The use of CVP water for water banking purposes will provide CVP contractors' operational flexibility and will facilitate better management of CVP water supplies for drought planning and water supply reliability. Water banking guidelines will set forth the general criteria and conditions under which Reclamation will approve the banking of CVP water outside the contractor's service area.

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Groundwater Banking Guidelines Development for CVP Water

Facts

Background

Reclamation must review water banking proposals to ensure resource protection and provide approval of reasonable proposals involving banking of CVP water “outside the contract service area.” This requirement is incorporated in the CVP water service contracts.

The use of CVP water for the purpose of groundwater banking “outside the contract service area,” provides contractors with operational flexibility and facilitates better management of CVP water supplies for drought planning and water supply reliability.

To date, only about ten of these banking actions have occurred. Most actions have utilized the Kern County, Semitropic, North Kern, or Rosedale Rio Bravo water banks in the south San Joaquin Valley. Initial proposals were for 1-year deposits; however, more recent proposals have been for longer periods, up to 25 years.

Along with increased banking requests has come the need to develop guidelines that are consistent and equitable. With established guidelines, there will be more efficient and consistent guidance available for those proposing banking actions. Preparing proposals in accordance with the guidelines is expected to help streamline the review and approval process.

Objective

Develop guidelines providing criteria under which CVP contractors can bank CVP water in groundwater storage locations outside their contract service areas.

The guidelines are intended to establish the criteria and conditions under which proposals are efficiently and consistently reviewed and will most likely result in approval.

Development Process

Public Input – Conduct workshops and develop press releases to obtain public input and concerns. Public input period expected to be 30 days, mostly in November 2006.

Draft Development – Reclamation will develop draft Groundwater Banking Guidelines with consideration given to public input.

Publish Draft Guidelines – Announce the availability in the Federal Register and open a comment period expected to be 30 days, mostly in February 2007.

Finalize Guidelines – Public comments will be reviewed and considered prior to finalization. If no significant changes are made based on public comments, the final version will be announced and released. If public comments generate significant changes, there will be an additional Federal Register announcement and comment period.

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Groundwater Banking Guidelines Development Approved Water Banking Proposals

Descriptions

The following are groundwater banking proposals that have been given conditional approval and all are subject to, and may be revised as necessary, and consistent with any final guidelines, criteria, regulations, or policies governing the banking of CVP water.

Kern Tulare Water District – North Kern Water Storage District

Approval given to conditionally deliver a portion of its CVP contract supplies and other purchases of CVP water up to 30,000 acre-feet, to North Kern Water Storage District during the 2005 water year in exchange for the return of the same amount of water to Kern-Tulare in a subsequent year, less 10 percent for losses to the water bank. Approval by Reclamation is needed for the return of any water to Kern-Tulare in subsequent years.

Kern Tulare and Rag Gulch Water Districts – Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District

Approval given to conditionally deliver a portion, not to exceed 40,000 acre feet at any one time, of Kern-Tulare and Rag Gulch's respective CVP contract supplies and other purchases of CVP water, to Rosedale-Rio Bravo for the return of water to Kern-Tulare and Rag Gulch in subsequent years. Term of approval is for a 25-year period.

Marvin Meyers (San Luis Water District) – Meyers Farm Water Banking Project

Approval given to conditionally deliver and bank up to 35,000 acre feet of the District's CVP supply and other purchases of CVP water in the Meyers Farm Water Banking Project. Return of the water will be exchanged for a like amount of water, less 5 percent for losses. Term of approval is 25 years, beginning April 1, 2006.

Westlands Water District to Semitropic

Approval given to conditionally deliver 25,000 acre-feet of Westlands 2005 CVP contract supplies to the Semitropic Groundwater Bank, less 10 percent for losses to the water bank. Approval by Reclamation is needed for the return of any water to Westlands in subsequent years.

Santa Clara Valley Water District – Semitropic Water Storage District – Short Term

Approval given to conditionally deliver 20,000 acre-feet of 2005 CVP M&I contract supplies to the Semitropic Groundwater Bank, less 10 percent for losses to the water bank by the end of the contract year. Approval by Reclamation is needed for the return of any water to Santa Clara in subsequent years.

Santa Clara Valley Water District – Semitropic Water Storage District – Long Term

Approval given for the conditional banking of up to 100,000 acre-feet per year of CVP water in the Santa Clara water bank account in the Semitropic Groundwater Bank. Approval also provided to for the withdrawal of up to 100,000 acre-feet in any 1-year during the 21-year term of the approval (2006 – 2027), less 10 percent for losses to the water bank.

Poso Creek Water Company, LLC – Semitropic Water Storage District

Approval given to conditionally deliver 15,000 acre-feet of Friant 215 water, for deposit into the Semitropic Groundwater Bank, less 10 percent for losses to the water bank, and subsequently for withdrawal and delivery of previously banked supplies by exchange to lands owned by Poso Creek members in Westlands Water District.