

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, MID-PACIFIC REGION
REGIONAL CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING WATER MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR
THE SACRAMENTO RIVER CONTRACTORS

INTRODUCTION

Background and General Information

These “Regional Criteria for Evaluating Water Management Plans” (Regional Criteria) were developed by the US Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) under the authority of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992 (CVPIA) and in accordance with the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (RRA).

The development and implementation of these Regional Criteria for the Sacramento Valley is an alternative “experimental” pilot program to the current “Standard Criteria for Evaluating Water Management Plans.” The Sacramento River Contractors that participate in the development of a Regional Water Management Plan (Plan) will have 5 years in which to successfully implement their Plan under these approved Regional Criteria. If the Contracting Officer deems this pilot program to be unsuccessful, these Regional Criteria will be discontinued. All subsequent Plans would then be evaluated under the then current Standard Criteria.

The following are excepted from the requirement to prepare a Plan using these Regional Criteria:

- All Contractors that receive **only** irrigation water from any Federal Reclamation project, and deliver said water to less than 2,000 acres of land.
- All Contractors that receive **only** municipal and industrial (urban) water from any Federal Reclamation project, and provide said water to less than 3,300 people.
- All Contractors that receive less than an annual average of 2,000 acre-feet from any Federal Reclamation project.

For the purposes of the Regional Criteria only, the following definitions will be used:

1. Agricultural Water Management Council (AWMC) - A consortium of agricultural water agencies, and public interest groups to implement Water Conservation practices in California. This effort was formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 1996. The council continues to grow with new signatories being accepted every year. Signatory water suppliers agree to develop and implement comprehensive conservation BMPs using sound economic criteria.

2. Annual Update – Annual report on the progress of Quantifiable Objectives and status update on the Regional Water Management Plan

3. CALFED Program - State-Federal program formalized in June 1994 upon the execution of a Framework Agreement by the State and Federal agencies having management and regulatory responsibility in the Bay-Delta Estuary. The mission of the CALFED Program is to develop and implement a long-term comprehensive plan that will improve the quality and reliability of the State of California’s water supplies, and restore the ecological health of the Bay-Delta.

4. Conjunctive Use - The planned and coordinated use of surface and ground-water supplies to increase water supply reliability, as may be included in a Ground Water Management Plan or Banking Program

5. Participating Contractor - Entities located in one or more of the Sacramento Valley Sub-Basins participating in developing and implementing a Regional Water Management Plan that satisfies these Regional Criteria.

6. Non-Participating Contractor - Entities located within one or more of the Sacramento Valley Sub-Basins who are not participating in the development of the Regional Water Management Plan.

7. District - The physical boundaries of the Participating Contractor's service area.

8. Five-Year Plan Revision - The revision of a Plan using the most recently adopted Criteria. Under the RRA, Participating Contractors are required to re-evaluate and re-submit to Reclamation their respective Plan every 5 years.

9. Ground Water Management Plan - A set of practices and management actions that maintain existing and/or improve ground-water conditions with the intent of protecting and/or increasing the benefits including the sustainability of the ground-water aquifer.

10. Ground-Water Recharge - The natural or intentional infiltration of surface water into the zone of saturation.

11. Implementation - Achieving and maintaining the staffing, funding, and the priority levels necessary to achieve the level of activity called for in the descriptions of the various Quantifiable Objectives (QOs).

12. Quantifiable Objectives (QOs) - The CALFED Program's approximations, expressed in acre-foot, of the practical, cost-effective portion of a Targeted Benefit that can be achieved through improving irrigation water management. . These approximations, have been made for agricultural water users across a sub-region, and do not necessarily represent the economically feasible portion of a Targeted Benefit that could be achieved at the local agency level.

13. Proposed Quantifiable Objectives (Proposed QO) – The QO or portion thereof that the Participating Contractors propose for further analysis.

14. Region - Geographic boundary of the area of Districts under the Regional Criteria.

15. Riparian Evapotranspiration (ET) - ET from non-crop vegetation usually growing along the banks of water conveyance and storage facilities.

16. Sub-Basin – A portion of a water basin, for example, Butte Creek and its drainage area.

17. Targeted Benefits (TB) – Geographically specific in-stream flow and timing, water quality and water quantity benefits that can potentially and partially be met through irrigation water management.

18. Water Conservation/Water Management – Optimize the use of water to accomplish the same purpose(s) or the use of the same amount of water to accomplish additional benefits. Water Management that results in the increased benefits of water can be achieved through the implementation of QOs identified in these criteria. For the purpose of these Criteria, Water Conservation is considered the same as Water Management.

Flexibility and Coordination

These Regional Criteria recognize the differences and commonalities within the Sub-Regions of the Sacramento Valley served by the Central Valley Project (CVP), and the differences and commonalities of Participating Contractors within those Sub-regions. Accordingly, these Regional Criteria have been written to be flexible enough to allow the Participating Contractors, or some other regional water management planning effort in the Sacramento Valley, to develop and implement the types of programs that will best accomplish improved water management within the region served by each of the Participating Contractors. These Regional Criteria allow and encourage both individual and joint efforts toward improved water management in the Sacramento Valley.

REGIONAL PLAN CONTENTS

These Regional Criteria consist of nine sections, as detailed below, that are intended to assist the Participating Contractors within the Sacramento Valley to develop and implement a Plan or Plans that will accomplish optimal water management within the Sacramento Valley.

Section 1: Description of the Region Covered by the Plan

Intent: To describe general physical information of each of the Participating Contractors as a basis for evaluating potential and actual water management improvements within each Contractor's service area and the region served by the Participating Contractors.

Evaluation: In certain circumstances, specific information may not be available. -For these circumstances, the Plan will describe how the information will be obtained for the Initial Annual Update, and will include the associated timeline for completion.

Detail Expected in an Adequate Plan: The Plan(s) shall describe each Participating Contractor's history, location and facilities, size, terrain and soils, environment, climate, operating rules and regulations, number of turnouts, description of delivery system, customer water delivery measurements, water rate schedules and billing, and water shortage allocation policies.

A. History: Define the geographic and political boundaries of the region served by each of the Participating Contractors, and provide a general historical overview. Provide a timeline that includes formation of each of the Participating Contractors and their sizes, water supplies, and significant changes in land use. Describe significant changes in irrigated acreage, cropping patterns, and irrigation methods.

B. Location and Facilities: Describe the incoming flow measurement methods and locations, conveyance and delivery systems (unlined and lined canals, pipelines, etc.), storage facilities (including re-regulating reservoirs), and spill recovery systems for each of the Participating Contractors. Indicate whether the delivery system is on-demand (no lead time or scheduling necessary), scheduled (water is ordered 24 hours in advance), rotation (farmer receives water every 10 days), or other. Describe any restrictions on the water source(s) and proposed changes

within the next 5 years for the Participating Contractors.

C. Topography and Soils: Describe the topography and its effect on water operations and management, for the region served by the Participating Contractors. Identify major soil classifications plus any soil limitations that affect water use (such as salinity, high water table, or low infiltration rates).

D. Climate: Describe the general climate of the region served by the Participating Contractors, including average precipitation, maximum and minimum temperatures, and average wind velocity. For areas with significantly different microclimates, identify the Contractor's service area affected, and how these affect water management decisions and operations.

E. Natural and Cultural Resources: Generally summarize the natural resources (wetlands, rivers, vernal pools, special-status plant and animal species, wildlife refuges, etc.) of the region served by the Participating Contractors. Also describe the region's recreational and cultural resources.

F. Operating Rules and Regulations: Describe or provide each Participating Contractor's operating rules and regulations, including lead time for water orders and water shutoff, policies on water allocations, return flows and drainage, and policies related to water transfers into or out of each Participating Contractor's service area.

G. Water Measurement, Pricing, and Billing: Describe how each Participating Contractor's water is measured. A summary table of this information will suffice, provided that it identifies each Participating Contractor's measurement practices by operations level, describing the types of devices typically used, and general maintenance and calibration practices. Describe the basis for each Participating Contractor's water charges and include copies of current billing forms used by each of the Participating Contractors. A copy of each Participating Contractor's operating rules and regulations will suffice if they include the basis for agricultural water charges (by volume, acre, crop, land assessment, other charges, etc.). If water use is billed by quantity,

describe the rate structure (declining, uniform, or increasing block rate, etc.) and include the billing frequency, bill format, and description of the record management system. A summary table of this information will suffice provided that it includes the billing and pricing information for the immediately preceding water year.

H. Water Shortage Allocation Policies: Provide/attach the water shortage policies for each Participating Contractor and describe how reduced water supplies, including “hardship” water, are allocated. Describe each Participating Contractor’s policies that address wasteful use of agricultural water, and enforcement methods. A copy of each Participating Contractor’s operating rules and regulations will suffice if they include a discussion of these policies.

I. Water Quality:

Describe any known surface-water or ground-water quality problems (including salinity, pesticide and other contaminants, flows, temperatures, and turbidity) and how those problems may limit water use within the region served by the Participating Contractors. Describe any known significant changes in water quality, and identify any areas where water quality problems exist within the region served by the Participating Contractors.

Describe water-quality monitoring programs for surface and subsurface agricultural drainage water (frequency of measurements and types of analyses) within the region served by the Participating Contractors. Identify any known constituents (such as selenium or pesticides) that limit reuse of the drainage water, describe any usage limitations, and explain how this information is provided to water users.

If the Participating Contractors are participants in a watershed group that is complying with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board - Central Valley Region’s Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges From Irrigated Lands, the Participating Contractors may attach a copy of the watershed group’s monitoring program in order to satisfy this section of the Regional Criteria.

Section 2: Inventory of Water Resources

Intent: To describe the quantity and quality of water (sources, uses, and discharges) available to the Participating Contractors in order to form a basis for evaluating water management improvements, and to provide Sub-Basin and regional water balances, within the region served by the Participating Contractors. The inventory should include Urban water so the full water supply and use can be considered. Include the source of this data when providing water inventory data.

Evaluation: In certain circumstances, specific information may not be available. For these circumstances, the Plan will describe in the initial Annual Update how the information will be obtained.

Detail Expected in an Adequate Plan: This section shall include a description of the surface water supply, ground-water supply, and other water supplies for each Sub-Basin within the region served by the Participating Contractors. This section shall also include water balances for the region served by the Participating Contractors, based upon the water inventory prepared for each of the Sub-Basins.

A. Surface-water Supply: Identify the acre-foot amounts of surface water that have been delivered to each of the Participating Contractors since at least 1979, as well as summarize the amount of water deliveries at a Sub-Basin level within the region served by the Participating Contractors, and the sources of those surface water supplies. Describe any water-quality limitations or management concerns associated with those sources.

B. Ground-water Supply: Describe the general characteristics of the ground water basin(s) that underlie each Sub-Basin within the region served by the Participating Contractors. Provide a map that shows operating wells, and estimate the quantity of extraction and recharge within each Sub-Basin. Describe any conjunctive use of surface water and ground water with each Sub-Basin. Provide copies of any groundwater management plans adopted by the Participating Contractors.

C. Other Water Supplies: Identify any other water supplies (drainage from upstream Districts, reclaimed urban wastewater, transfer agreements between Districts, etc.) for each Participating Contractor.

D. Water Uses within the Region for the Representative Year(s): The water use data for the following uses are required for at least one representative year for each of the Participating Contractors and by Sub-Basin.

1. Agricultural: Describe the types and acreages of crops grown for each Sub-Basin within the region served by each of the Participating Contractors, including estimates for non-participating Contractors² within the Sub-Basin; include total annual evapotranspiration rates, cultural practices, and the leaching requirement for each crop. Identify the types of irrigation systems used for each crop.

2. Urban: Describe any Urban water use by Participating Contractor and non-Participating Contractors for each Sub-Basin within the region served by the Participating Contractors. Generally summarize wastewater collection and treatment systems, recycled water uses, and methods of disposal.

3. Environmental: Describe known dedicated and incidental environmental water uses, by the Participating Contractors and non-participating Contractors, within the region that benefit the environment (for wetlands, fisheries, refuges, requirements of Endangered Species Act biological opinions, etc.) for each Sub-Basin within the region served by the Participating Contractors.

4. Ground-water Recharge: Identify source and quantity of water used, planned and incidental, by Participating Contractors and non-participating Contractors, for ground-water

¹ For each of the categories in section 2, information related to non-participating Contractors may be estimated and provided in the first Plan Revision.

recharge, including the method of recharge for each Sub-Basin within the region served by the Participating Contractors.

5. Transfers and Exchanges: Identify by Participating Contractor and non-participating Contractors, the source and quantity of water transferred or exchanged into, out of, or within each Sub-Basin within the region served by the Participating Contractors, and the uses. Describe any other water transactions, such as trades or wheeling.

6. Other: Describe any other significant uses of water by Participating Contractors and non-participating Contractors for each Sub-Basin within the region served by the Participating Contractors.

E. Agricultural Drainage: Identify where surface and subsurface agricultural drainage goes (such as beneficial reuse within the service area, another District, ground water, wildlife refuges, saline sink, evaporation ponds, etc.) for each Sub-Basin within the region served by the Participating Contractors and non-participating Contractors. If drainage is reused outside the region, generally identify the location and type of reuse.

F. Overall Regional Water Budget: Compare total water supplies entering the region with total water leaving the region. Compare calculated water needs with actual water use. Include an evaluation of water needs for wildlife refuges. Compare water into the distribution system with measured deliveries or calculated water needs, and attempt to identify and estimate system losses.

Section 3. Identify Regional Water Measurement Program

Intent: Identify the measurement program that will be implemented by the Participating Contractors within the region and sub-regions served by the Participating Contractors. Water measurement is a helpful water management tool that will continue to assist in identifying and evaluating potential practices that can result in improved Participating Contractor and farm water

operations.

Evaluation: In certain circumstances, specific information may not be available. For these circumstances, the Plan will describe in the Annual Update how the information will be obtained.

Detail expected in an Adequate Plan: This section will include the Region's water measurement program to be implemented by the Participating Contractors within the region and sub-region served by the Participating Contractors, along with each Participating Contractor's water measurement program including water measurement locations and the level of accuracy, frequency of calibration and/or maintenance and reading schedule for the water measurement devices. This section will also include a budget and timeline for the implementation of the Participating Contractor's measurement program.

Each Participating Contractor shall implement one of the following measurement options:

1. Measure with a reasonable degree of accuracy the volume of water delivered by each Participating Contractor to each of its respective customers, and implement procedures that provide incentives for improved management of water by February 2009; or
2. Implement a mutually acceptable water measurement program (including timeframes and budget needs) within 3 years of the renewal of the Participating Contractors' contract with Reclamation, with full implementation within 5 years thereof. This option should be at least as effective as option 1 and will be substantiated based on field documentation derived from the measurement study(s) conducted in relevant sub-regions. Please attach a description of the study(s) including the study objectives, along with an estimated timeline and budget.

Section 4: Analyze Water Management Quantifiable Objectives

Intent: Analyze the Quantifiable Objectives (QOs) identified by the CALFED Water Use Efficiency Program that will support improved (more efficient) water management in the region

served by the Participating Contractors. Participating Contractors will review the list of applicable QOs. Where Participating Contractors identify QOs that are not applicable, the Participating Contractors will determine their non-applicability by the initial Annual Update (see the “Determination of Non-Applicability” paragraph in this section).

Evaluation: In certain circumstances, specific information may not be available. For these circumstances, the Plan will describe for the initial Annual Update, how the information will be obtained including an associated timeline for completion.

Detail Expected in an Adequate Plan: This section addresses the Participating Contractors’ review of the QOs that apply to the geographic location of the region served by the Participating Contractors, and that are within the management purview of the Participating Contractors. The CALFED QOs that have been quantified as of the date of these Criteria are identified in **Appendix A**, attached hereto. In this section, Participating Contractors will identify any QOs that they determine are not applicable, and provide an analysis including, at a minimum, a statement of reasons for any such determination. The Participating Contractors will evaluate each of the remaining QOs to identify all or a portion of the QO that they propose to analyze for potential implementation (Proposed QOs). For data not available during the preparation of this Plan, the Participating Contractors shall describe in the Plan how this information will be obtained for the initial Annual Update.

Background Regarding Targeted Benefits and Quantifiable Objectives

The TBs and QOs are the cornerstone for the implementation of agricultural water use efficiency element of the CALFED Program. TBs are geographically specific in-stream flow and timing, water quality and water quantity benefits that can potentially and partially be met through irrigation water management. QOs are the CALFED Program’s approximation, expressed in acre-feet, of the practical, cost-effective portion of a Targeted Benefit that can be achieved through improving irrigation water management. These approximations, have been made for agricultural water users across a sub-region, and do not necessarily represent the economically feasible portion of a Targeted Benefit that could be achieved at the local agency level.

The CALFED Program’s TBs for the Central Valley are organized in relation to 21 Sub-regions. The seven Sub-Regions covered under these Regional Criteria are set forth below:

Table 1.
Names and numbers of the CALFED Program Sub-regions relative to the area served under this Regional Criteria Document.

Sub-region name	WUE Sub-region Number
Redding Basin	1
Sacramento Valley, Chico Landing to Red Bluff	2
Sacramento Valley, Colusa Basin	3
Mid-Sacramento Valley, Chico Landing to Knights Landing	4
Sacramento Valley Floor, Cache Creek, Putah Creek, and Yolo Bypass	6
Lower Sacramento River below Verona	7

Determination of Non-Applicability

In certain cases QOs may be deemed to be "non-applicable" due to reasons such as duplicated effort, necessity, or effectiveness. Therefore, determination of applicability could include, but will not be limited to, consideration of the following:

- Whether the QOs are already being pursued through other Regional implementation activities (duplicated effort);
- Whether the CALFED Science Program has determined that the QO and/or its related TB are no longer warranted based on information collected through the Region's water flow and water quality monitoring program, or based upon the Science Program’s

determination that the fishery conditions in the Region have been satisfied (necessity);
and

- Whether the Participating Contractors in the sub-region are able to affect the related Targeted Benefits (effectiveness).

Prioritization of QOs for Further Analysis and Quantification of Proposed QOs:

After determining which QO's are not applicable, the Participating Contractors will evaluate the remaining QOs to identify Proposed QOs. As part of this evaluation process, the Participating Contractors will:

- Provide a preliminary prioritization of the Proposed QOs based upon the following considerations: potential for greatest local benefit, potential benefit to CALFED Program, utilization of other on-going analyses, practicality of implementation, and local environment.
- Annually analyze, at a minimum, one-fifth of the Proposed QOs to determine which Proposed QOs may be implemented. This information will be provided in the Annual Update. At least one Proposed QO should be analyzed for each sub-region unless all QOs for that sub-region have already been addressed. The scope and extent of the analysis of each Proposed QO will be dependent upon whether undertaking such analysis is financially feasible for the Participating Contractors based upon their existing resources, and if not, whether there is funding available to the Participating Contractors for that purpose. If undertaking an in-depth and detailed analysis of the Proposed QO is not financially feasible, and funding is not currently available, the Plan shall at a minimum, provide a reconnaissance level analysis. Such an analysis will be based upon existing data and information, including data presented in the Participating Contractors' water inventory (Section 2). In addition, the Plan shall identify in the Annual Update the efforts that the Participating Contractors will undertake in order to attempt to secure adequate funding to perform a detailed and in-depth analysis of he Proposed QO.

Section 5: Identify Actions to Implement and Achieve Proposed QOs

Intent: Develop a water management implementation plan that demonstrates a reasonable approach for implementing actions that will meet the Proposed QOs identified by the Participating Contractors in Section 4, as well as other actions that address the efficient water management objectives in the region. Implementation of any Proposed QOs will be dependent upon whether such implementation is economically and financially feasible for each of the Participating Contractors.

The types of actions that can be undertaken to address the TBs and Proposed QOs include, but are not limited to, actions outlined in the exemptible Best Management Practices for Agricultural Contractors in the USBR's Standard Criteria.

Evaluation: In certain circumstances, specific information may not be available. For these circumstances, the Plan will describe in the Initial Annual Update how the information will be obtained including an associated timeline for completion of the analysis.

Detail Expected in an Adequate Plan: This section will describe the particular actions that will be undertaken by each of the Participating Contractors to pursue the Proposed QOs developed as a result of the efforts described in Section 4, above. Alternatively, this section will identify in the initial Annual Update a process that the Participating Contractors will undertake and complete in order to develop a water management implementation plan that demonstrates a reasonable approach for implementing actions that will meet the applicable Proposed QOs. For data not available during the preparation of this Plan, the Participating Contractors will describe in the initial Annual Update how the information will be obtained.

Development of the Implementation Plan for Selected Proposed QOs

The Participating Contractors should develop the implementation plan as follows:

- Develop a set of actions to accomplish each of the Proposed QOs that have been analyzed and identified for implementation in Section 4. The Participating Contractors will select the most effective and reasonable practices or measures to accomplish the Proposed QOs. Measures that should be considered include improved grower education, and

implementation of appropriate pricing and measurement requirements (based upon ongoing current cooperative studies) to encourage efficient water management. In addition, the Participating Contractors are also encouraged to explore and implement other potentially feasible practices that lead to efficient water management improvements in the region.

- Identify each action and describe the implementation process, including each of the Participating Contractor's involvement in carrying out the actions.
- Provide an analysis of the proposed actions, including potential impacts (e.g. environmental), costs, as well as opportunities for partnerships; an explanation for choosing the proposed actions; and the priority of the actions. In evaluating potential actions, the Participating Contractors should consider opportunities for benefits that accrue only with a regional approach and/or as a result of partnership(s) with other entities.

Economic and Financial Feasibility

Implementation of any Proposed QOs will be dependent upon whether such implementation is economically and financially feasible for the Participating Contractors based upon their existing resources, and if not, whether there is funding available to the Participating Contractors for that purpose. If such implementation is not economically feasible, and funding is not currently available, the Plan shall identify in the Annual Update the efforts that the Participating Contractors will undertake in order to attempt to secure adequate funding.

Section 6. Establish Monitoring Program

Each of the Participating Contractors will work with Reclamation to implement measurements at strategic points to document existing conditions, and therefore to monitor anticipated benefits resulting from the implementation of the programs.

Intent: Document existing conditions for flows and water quality constituents for the selected QOs for key outflow locations in the Sub-regions and update these conditions annually. Measure the physical results of actions taken, and collect other data necessary to assess progress toward achieving the QOs. Monitoring is also intended to provide to Participating Contractors both timely and accurate information on the quantitative impacts of their water use and, thus, an indication of how effective individual actions have been.

Evaluation: In certain circumstances, specific information may not be available. For these circumstances, the Plan will describe in the Annual Update how the information will be obtained including the associated timeline for completion.

Detail Expected in an Adequate Plan: This section will describe a mutually acceptable monitoring program for implementation. Alternatively, this section shall identify in the initial Annual Update a process for developing a monitoring plan. The Participating Contractors will begin implementing the mutually acceptable monitoring plan developed by the Contractors prior to the second Annual Update.

The monitoring program will include: (1) specific monitoring (as appropriate) for each objective; (2) schedule, budget, and responsibility for monitoring; and (3) annual reporting requirements.

When finalized, the participants in the watershed group's program identified in Section 1, may satisfy all, or a portion of, this monitoring plan to the extent that the program addresses the flow and water quality constituents for the key outflow locations in the sub-regions.

Section 7: Budget and Allocation of Regional Costs

The Participating Contractors will provide an itemized annual budget, projected for 3 years, for the development and implementation of the Plan. The budget should cover salaries, office space, equipment and supplies, vehicle expenses, and program expenses.

Section 8: Regional Plan Coordination

Each Participating Contractor will provide the name and contact information for their “conservation coordinator” staff member. This person will serve as the point of contact for information related to Participating Contractor specific conservation planning activities. The Plan will also identify the Regional Plan coordinator who will be responsible for coordinating and reporting on matters related to the overall Plan. The Plan should include the process the Participating Contractors will employ to resolve issues that may not affect an individual Contractor, but may impact the Region or Sub-Basin.

Section 9: Five-Year Plan Revision Procedure

Revision Process

Pursuant to provisions in the Sacramento River Settlement Contracts, Participating Contractors are required to jointly submit revised Plan every 5 years. Participating Contractors will use the most recently adopted Regional Criteria for a new Plan or a 5-year Plan revision. The Participating Contractors will continue to jointly file an Annual Update every year to report on implementation actions taken, along with any additions and/or revisions to the Plan.

The Regional Coordinator will provide Annual Updates to USBR by March 1 of each year. The Regional Coordinator will identify actions implemented and changes/adjustments to the regional program. Updated budgets, reports on proposed activities, and accomplishments will be provided.

Review Process

The Participating Contractors are requested to jointly submit the draft Plan to the Northern California Area Office for review and forwarding to the Regional Office. Once forwarded to the Regional Office, the Participating Contractors will receive, within 90 days, notification of Reclamation’s acceptance or request for modifications. Following notification by Reclamation that the Plan has conditionally met the requirements of the Regional Criteria, Participating Contractors shall jointly submit three copies of the complete Plan and resolutions by each of the Participating Contractor’s Board of Directors formally adopting the Plan. The status of the Plan

will then be noticed in the *Federal Register*, and the public is given 30 days in which to comment. Copies of the document will be available for review at Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Regional Office and the Northern California Area Office. If no comments are received within 30 days, the review process will officially be complete. If public comments are received, additional changes may be required.

Signatories to the AWMC

Participating Contractors that are signatories of the AWMC should also jointly submit the Plan to the AWMC after notification by Reclamation that the Plan has conditionally met the requirements of the Criteria. The AWMC will review the Plan using Reclamation's Regional Criteria. The AWMC may provide comments to Reclamation within 30 days of receiving the Plan. Reclamation will review AWMC comments as part of its concurrent review of the Plan. The goal is to have the Plan meet the requirements of both Reclamation and AWMC.