

CHAPTER 5. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DURING PHASE 1

The Phase 1 Investigation addressed issues of interest and concern to stakeholders engaged in local and regional water resource planning. To provide meaningful opportunities for these stakeholders to participate and to become informed regarding Phase 1 activities, the Investigation included an extensive public involvement program featuring both interactive and outreach components:

- Structured series of interactive public workshops
- Briefings for governmental and nongovernmental agencies and coalitions
- Briefings for tribal representatives
- Coordination with local water resources planning and management groups
- Coordination with agencies
- Interviews with water management agency representatives
- Tours of Millerton Lake and portions of the upper San Joaquin River
- Distribution of informative brochures, fact sheets, and documents that provided background and updates on the Investigation's progress
- Distribution of Investigation documents via a Web site

The interactive components of the public involvement program focused on involving those with a stake in the outcome of the Investigation. Stakeholders in the Investigation study area brought a high level of experience and local knowledge to the process, and provided a variety of recommendations, responses, and reviews that likewise informed the plan formulation process. Outreach components were designed to provide information and materials to a broad group of interested parties. These outreach efforts disseminated information widely, brought additional stakeholders to the process, and enhanced coordination with related water resources planning and management groups.

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

The interactive component of the public involvement program included a structured series of workshops and meetings at which participants had opportunities to hear presentations by the study team, take part in discussions regarding plan formulation, and provide input about the planning process, analyses, and project documents. This process included six general workshops and one topic-oriented working session. Figure 5-1 depicts the workshop series, which was designed to provide opportunities for involvement at key milestones in the planning process.

WORKSHOP TOPICS						
WORKSHOP #1 "Introduction" May 29, 2002	WORKSHOP #2 "Approach and Options" July 21, 2002	"Ecosystem Restoration Flows" September 4, 2002	WORKSHOP #3 "Options" October 18, 2002	WORKSHOP #4 "Initial Results" February 11, 2003	WORKSHOP #5 "Appraisal Phase" April 30, 2003	WORKSHOP #6 "Alternatives" August 27, 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation Overview Principles of Participation Phase I Approach Technical Activities to be Conducted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modeling - Engineering - Environmental 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase I Purpose and Goals Problems and Opportunities Initial Analysis Approach and Assumptions Storage Options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial Phase I Modeling Approach Initial Modeling Assumptions for Restoration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surface Storage Option Screening Conjunctive Management Model Modifications and Preliminary Results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Functional Equivalence Preliminary Single Purpose Analysis Results Continuation Criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Alternatives Draft Analysis Results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis Results Alternatives Phase 2 Feasibility Study and EIS/EIR

FIGURE 5-1. PHASE 1 STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP PROCESS

Workshop participants included representatives of water agencies, counties, State and Federal agencies, water districts, environmental interest groups, and others with an interest in the Investigation. The workshops, which were held in a variety of locations within the study area, and were announced via E-mail, mailed postcards, and the project Web site, were well-attended. Each workshop included multiple interactive segments during which participants expressed their concerns, asked questions, and discussed issues central to the Investigation. Detailed summaries of the workshops were prepared, distributed to participants, and posted on the project Web site. The workshops are summarized briefly below.

Workshop 1 – Introduction

The first workshop, held in Fresno on May 29, 2002, initiated stakeholder participation in the Investigation. The workshop included presentations and discussions on Investigation purposes and a review of the origins and authorities for the study. The study team presented the Phase I approach and explained the types of water resources problems the Investigation would focus on during analyses. During a brainstorming session, participants described problems they wanted the study to address and noted special considerations for the planning process. The plan for technical activities was also presented.

Workshop 2 – Approach and Options

Workshop 2, held on July 31, 2002, in Modesto, provided an overview of the study approach and clarified the goals of the Investigation. Prior to the workshop, participants were provided a description of water resources problems and opportunities as they relate to the Investigation. Presentations and discussions centered on this information. Participants commented on the approach for addressing water quality, ecosystem, and water supply reliability problems and discussed the initial analysis concept. The study team presented a preliminary list of storage options identified in the Investigation. Additional presentations introduced the hydrologic models and modeling assumptions that would be used for Investigation analyses. During this workshop, participants identified a need for a separate discussion of Friant Dam release patterns to use in the initial evaluation of ecosystem restoration opportunities. This follow-up discussion was held at an Ecosystem Restoration Flows workshop, described below.

Working Session – Ecosystem Restoration Flows

A working session focused on Ecosystem Restoration Flows was held on September 4, 2002, in Madera. Because many participants in this meeting had not attended previous Investigation workshops, this meeting included a review of Investigation purposes and planning approach. Presentations covered the hydrologic model to be used, assumptions and constraints in the model, and information needs. Participants provided recommendations and information in identifying appropriate Friant Dam release patterns for inclusion in Investigation analyses of water supplies that would be available for restoration flows. Participants suggested modeling a river flow release that was patterned after the unimpaired San Joaquin River hydrograph – an approach that was used in the Investigation.

Workshop 3 – Options

Workshop 3, held in Los Banos on October 18, 2002, updated participants on Investigation progress and presented preliminary results of option screening and model simulations. Presentations covered the context of the Investigation within the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and explained the formal review process to be used for Investigation documents. Participants were provided draft results of the initial surface storage option screening. A presentation and accompanying facilitated discussion centered on the ISI Conjunctive Water Management Program and integration of conjunctive management in the Investigation. Also discussed were modifications to the hydrologic model sample results.

Workshop 4 – Initial Results

The fourth workshop, held in Fresno on February 11, 2003, reviewed the overall Investigation approach and presented components and working status of the In-Progress Phase I Investigation Report. A draft version of the Phase I Investigation Report was released for public review following this workshop. The report contained 1) water resources problems and opportunities; 2) study planning approach; 3) initial screening of potential surface storage options; and 4) modeling approach and initial evaluations. A presentation covered a preliminary framework for comparing storage options, and discussions revisited the potential inclusion of conjunctive management options. Assumptions used for the model were presented along with preliminary results of the single-purpose analyses.

Workshop 5 – Appraisal Phase

At Workshop 5, held in Fresno on April 30, 2003, participants were informed that Congress had authorized Reclamation to prepare a feasibility study for new storage in the upper San Joaquin River basin. A presentation summarized participants' comments on the Phase I In-Progress Report. Discussion continued on the proposed approach for incorporating conjunctive management options. Screening results for initial surface storage options were reviewed and first cost estimates for retained sites were provided. Presentations covered modeling results, including sensitivity analyses, and previewed upcoming evaluations. Participant recommendations included requests for analyses of potential impacts to Millerton Lake residences and upstream hydropower projects.

Workshop 6 – Alternatives

Workshop 6, held in Modesto August 27, 2003, reviewed the range of storage options examined by the Investigation and presented details of the analyses that have been conducted on the surface storage options carried forward for further study. A status overview recounted Investigation purposes, described the range of surface storage options that have been appraised, and reviewed screening of the surface storage options. The study team summarized the analyses of retained surface storage options, including potential hydrologic accomplishments; engineering and geology aspects; environmental resources; impacts to existing hydropower facilities; and the potential for new or replacement hydroelectric generation. An update was provided on the formulation of potential groundwater storage options to be led by DWR. This subject generated discussion and questions from several stakeholders. Participants were also provided an overview of the feasibility study schedule and activities and encouraged to remain involved actively as the feasibility study continues.

COORDINATION WITH WATER RESOURCES PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES AND GROUPS

The context in which the Investigation is being conducted includes a complex set of Federal, State, and local regulations. Local and regional planning is being conducted with involvement from a wide variety of organizations at all political levels and with varying mandates and policies. Many of the organizations responsible for planning, enforcing regulations, and developing and implementing policy are involved in several related programs and ongoing efforts that affect the water system facilities being studied in this Investigation.

In addition to public workshops, a variety of communication tools are in place to provide timely information and comment opportunities to the public through completion of the feasibility study and environmental review. The Phase 1 public involvement program featured both interactive and outreach components that included the following:

- Coordination with governmental agencies and nongovernmental organizations
- Briefings for tribal representatives
- Briefings for elected officials
- Coordination with local water resources planning and management groups
- Interviews with water management agency representatives
- Tours of Millerton Lake and portions of the upper San Joaquin River
- Informative brochures, fact sheets, and documents that provided Investigation background and progress updates
- Distribution of Investigation documents via a Web site

INTERVIEWS WITH LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

As part of the approach to identify and evaluate conjunctive management opportunities that have the potential to support Investigation purposes, Investigation staff conducted one-on-one interviews with local stakeholders regarding regional, cooperative opportunities for groundwater storage and banking. These interviews identified a high level of interest among the stakeholders. During the interviews, no specific projects were identified that could be incorporated into the Investigation, and stakeholders made note of significant physical and legal constraints that could affect implementation of conjunctive management options.

TOURS

Investigation staff conducted two tours of Millerton Lake and the upper San Joaquin River during 2003, and provided presentations on several similar tours conducted by other organizations. These half-day tours provided interested parties a firsthand view of several of the surface storage sites under consideration. Tour participants viewed portions of the Raise Friant Dam, Fine Gold, and Temperance Flat option sites, and presenters provided information regarding environmental resources, hydropower facilities, and construction issues. Investigation staff also supplied briefing materials for a special air tour of the surface storage option sites.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS AND DOCUMENT ACCESS

Throughout Phase 1, the study team prepared and distributed a variety of informational materials. Among these materials were the following:

- *Related Authorities, Regulation, Programs, and Groups*: This document, provided at the first workshop, is a guidance tool that identifies and describes legal, regulatory, and institutional constraints associated with the Investigation. This memorandum explains how the constraints interrelate and provides descriptions of 40 authorities, regulations, programs, agreements, and groups related to water issues in the upper San Joaquin River basin.
- *Investigation Brochures*: Four-page brochures, covering the Investigation approach, schedule, technical analyses, study results, and public involvement, were prepared and distributed widely during Phase 1.
- *Fact Sheets*: A variety of fact sheets distributed during Phase I summarized topics such as the planning process and workshop series, surface storage options, and the approach for identifying and incorporating conjunctive management options.

The Investigation Web site, hosted by Reclamation at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/sccao/storage/> contains the above materials and project reports, technical memoranda, all presentations and handouts used at public workshops, contact information for the study team, and an E-mail gateway for contacting the study team. The Web site has been a key feature in outreach efforts. Throughout Phase 1, a mailing list of interested parties was used to distribute postcard notifications of workshops and document releases. The Phase 1 mailing list will form the basis for an extended Phase 2 mailing list.

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