

Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation

Workshop Summary

Workshop # 1, May 29, 2002

Introduction

The content of Workshop # 1 for the Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation (Investigation) is summarized below. Bill Luce, from the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), and Mark Cowin, from the Department of Water Resources (DWR), opened the meeting. The workshop included the following items:

- Investigation overview;
- Roles during the investigation;
- Phase I approach;
- Problems to be addressed by the investigation;
- Technical activities planned; and
- Next steps.

Investigation Overview

Jason Phillips, Reclamation's project manager, gave an overview of the Investigation. He discussed the CALFED objectives and the programs that were developed to meet the objectives, as well as those objectives identified by CALFED that could be met by increasing storage in the upper San Joaquin River basin. This Investigation is part of the Integrated Storage Investigation (ISI) Program, jointly managed by DWR and Reclamation. Phase I of the 4-year Upper San Joaquin Investigation will end with a recommendation to CALFED policy-makers regarding whether the project should move forward to a feasibility study and environmental documentation phase.

The objectives identified by CALFED for upper San Joaquin storage include:

- Contribute to restoration of the San Joaquin River;
- Improve water quality in the San Joaquin River; and
- Improve water quality of urban deliveries (by facilitating conjunctive water management and water exchanges).

During discussion, Mr. Phillips reiterated that the Investigation is not limited to the purposes in the Record of Decision, and that they should be expanded to include local purposes.

The types of benefits that would be derived from enlarging Friant Dam define the geographic scope of the project. Alternatives that could provide these benefits will be considered, even if components of the alternative may be farther away geographically.

Re-operating reservoirs upstream of Friant Dam was studied several years ago, and this change could produce increased water yields. Re-operation will be examined during the Investigation, but there will likely be tradeoffs, in that increasing water yields could decrease power yields.

Jason described other programs related to the Investigation, including the Corps' Comprehensive Study, which examines broad-scale solutions to flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration that rely on increased regulation (including storage), floodplain management, and improvements to the conveyance system. The Comprehensive Study recognizes the need to have locally driven solutions, and seeks to incorporate all three approaches. In response to a question regarding conjunctive management programs, Mark Cowin described DWR's local assistance to help develop conjunctive use projects and a grant and loan program (mostly from Proposition 13) to help fund locally driven conjunctive management. Stakeholders recommended that a diagram be developed to understand how the multiple CALFED Investigations fit together.

Roles

Coral Cavanagh, CDM, outlined the roles of the stakeholder participants and the planning team. The stakeholder roles are also discussed in the Principles of Participation, a handout that was included with the letter of invitation and was distributed in the stakeholder binders. The process will be conducted according to these principles. Stakeholders were requested to review this draft and raise any issues or concerns about the Principles to Jason Phillips before the next meeting.

Meeting attendees recommended that other interested stakeholders should be invited, specifically from fisheries interests, and that the meetings should be rotated through several different locations, with the majority of the meetings in the Fresno area. Attendees also indicated that fewer, more intense workshops with working lunches would be preferable.

The project team emphasized that as part of the public participation process, the workshops are open to all interested parties. Meetings and project documents are available on the project website: <http://www.mp.usbr.gov/sccao/storage>.

Planning Approach

Bill Swanson, MWH, discussed the planning approach for the Investigation. The Investigation will first examine the benefits that could be derived from raising Friant Dam, and will then compare benefits from other alternatives to determine if these other alternatives achieve the same type of benefits as raising Friant Dam. The approach includes these steps:

- Describe the context and affected environment;
- Explore needs and opportunities;
- Identify preliminary alternatives; and
- Decide whether to move ahead with further planning.

Discussion of the planning approach raised the following points:

- The Investigation should define the relationship/match of objectives with the goals of the Friant/NRDC discussions.
- This Investigation should consider a broad definition of improving water supply conditions, including both reliability and quantity.
- Water quality improvements should be an objective of the study.
- The objective of improving water supply includes supplies for all potential uses, although who will pay for water that is dedicated to ecosystem restoration requires more discussion.
- Several options considered by the Investigation were discarded during the FWUA/NRDC settlement process; however, these options should still be examined in the context of this Investigation.
- Metropolitan Water District is partnering with Friant Water Users to work on regional exchanges, and information from those efforts should be included in this Investigation.

Problems to be addressed by the Investigation

Charles Gardiner, PAM, led a brainstorming session to discuss problems that people would like to be addressed by this Investigation. The discussion included both problems that the study should seek to solve, as well as considerations that should be taken into account during the planning process.

Investigation Objectives

Stakeholders identified the following objectives that should be included in the Investigation:

- Water supply needs of urban growth;
- Water quality;
- Flood control;
- Increase water supply for South Delta users;

- Recreation;
- Meeting wetland and refuge water supplies; and
- Water temperature in key spawning and nursery areas.

Considerations during Planning Process

Stakeholders identified the following issues that should be considered during the planning process:

- Water rights that may be affected by additional water development;
- Channel maintenance and floodplain integrity;
- Watershed protection as a method of improving water quality;
- Protection of environmental values;
- Full utilization of conjunctive use opportunities;
- Discussion and agreement on the appropriate baseline;
- Impacts on private property rights along the river;
- FERC relicensing of upstream facilities may provide an opportunity for re-operation;
- Deciding who should pay: lifetime projected use will help decide who the beneficiaries are;
- Addressing statewide problems (such as water needs for urban growth) could come at the expense of local needs; and
- Interaction with FWUA/NRDC process.

Technical Activities

Yung-Hsin Sun, David Rogers, and Bill Swanson presented information on the modeling, engineering, and environmental activities, respectively, that are planned during the course of the Investigation. Stakeholders expressed interest in hearing more about these areas, especially the efforts to expand CALSIM II to include more detail in the study area.

Next Steps

The project team asked stakeholders to review the *Authorities, Regulations, Groups and Agreements* Technical Memorandum for completeness and accuracy and provides comments to Jason Phillips. This document is not a formal constraints analysis; rather, it is intended to be a “living document” that serves as a reference tool for those involved with the Investigation.

The project team anticipates holding the next workshop on July 31. Stakeholders expressed an interest in using small groups and/or conference calls during the Investigation to cover topics that may be of specific interest to subsets of the larger stakeholder group.

This Summary will be distributed to attendees and initial invitees, and will be posted on the project web site.

Workshop Participants	Organization
Tom Boardman	San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority
Gary Bobker	The Bay Institute
Walt Bourez	MBK
Hal Candee	Natural Resources Defense Counsel
Coral Cavanagh	Project Team
Jim Chandler	Orange Cove Irrigation District
Steve Chedester	San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority
Mark Cowin	Department of Water Resources
Phil Desatoff	Fresno County
Marian Echeverria	Project Team
Charles Gardiner	Project Team
Russ Grimes	Project Team
Richard Hayes	Project Team
Steve Haze	Millerton Area Watershed Coalition
Randy Houk	Columbia Canal Company
Michael Jackson	Bureau of Reclamation
Ron Jacobsma	Friant Water User Association
Paula Landis	Department of Water Resources
Stephen Lee	Bureau of Reclamation
Bill Loudermilk	Department of Fish and Game
Bill Luce	Bureau of Reclamation
Carrie Metzger	Project Team
Beatrice Olsen	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Dave Orth	Kings River Conservation District
Allan Oto	Bureau of Reclamation
Steve Ottemoeller	Madera Irrigation District
Jason Phillips	Project Team
Dave Rogers	Project Team
Mike Savage	Project Team
Dan Steiner	Project Team
Yung-Shin Sun	Project Team
Bill Swanson	Project Team

Chris White
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