

Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation

Principles of Participation

PROJECT SCOPE

The Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation (Investigation) will consider a range of approaches to increase water supplies through the enlargement of Millerton Lake at Friant Dam or a functionally equivalent storage program. The Investigation features a public involvement process that uses a workshop series, which is intended to provide meaningful opportunities for public stakeholders to learn about the planning process and provide input. These workshops are designed to ensure public input is considered in this initial phase of the Investigation.

Public involvement specialists will develop and facilitate the interactive process. Through interaction with the technical partners in the Investigation, the stakeholders will have the opportunity to stay informed regarding the planning process, and can, where appropriate, help to make project data, results, and ongoing development and evaluation of alternatives understandable to and supportable by those most affected by this project.

To achieve these goals, the project team is asking workshop participants to:

1. Learn about Upper San Joaquin River Basin resources and the respective roles of Reclamation, DWR, and regulating agencies in this effort;
2. Become familiar with the decision-making processes used by Reclamation and DWR, and contribute information that will be considered during these agencies' decision-making;
3. Use the meetings as a forum for each representative to work cooperatively, to consider a range of options, and to communicate specific concerns to other participants and the study team;
4. Report back to constituents and organizational colleagues on the goals and progress of the planning effort;
5. Provide input to the study team on stakeholder issues, concerns, and values, and work hard to assure that all participants' concerns have been documented;
6. Attend the series of seven currently planned workshops; and
7. Listen courteously to other points of view and consider alternatives before making recommendations.

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DISCUSSION PROCESS

All stakeholder perspectives are valued. The preferred deliberation process is collaborative problem solving in which all opinions are equally valued. All viewpoints presented by stakeholders and other interested parties will be documented and communicated to decision makers.

SUPPORT

A neutral facilitator, as well as Reclamation and DWR staff and consultants, will arrange for presentations of technical information and assistance to participants during discussions.

AGENDA

Participation in the establishment of agendas and matters for discussion will be encouraged. The facilitator will be responsible for preparing the agendas in collaboration with Reclamation and DWR. At the conclusion of each meeting, participants will be given the opportunity to recommend items for inclusion in the next agenda.

MEETING RECORDING

Meetings may be audio taped to assist in the preparation of meeting summaries that will be distributed to participants. The meeting summaries will also be available on the project website:
<http://www.mp.usbr.gov/scao/storage>.

WORK PRODUCT

Documents will be prepared on behalf of participants to describe the scope and content of the discussions on the issues considered, as well as individual opinions and observations that may not be reflected in the main body of project reports. Participant input will be presented to Reclamation and DWR for review and consideration. Neither the participants' discussions nor the stakeholder issues reports will be construed by Reclamation and DWR as an endorsement of a particular project or alternative.

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