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Subject: YBSA comments for draft plan and plan of study 2010
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Here are our comments Ben to the draft plan, and the the task list for 2010:

Dec 2, 2009

Preliminary Draft of Suggestions on Plan of Study Summary

It is noted that at the completion of Task 5 the "...Work Group may decide to modify the preliminary Integrated Management Plan before proceeding to subsequent tasks" (a decision point". However, at this point the accomplishments of the potential water supply projects have yet to be assessed. Therefore, we suggest this "decision point" should be at the completion of Task 6. Further, the "score card" referenced in proposed changes to the "Recommendation to Advance a Preliminary Integrated management Plan" should be utilized in determining the structure of the Integrated Management Plan to carry forward in subsequent tasks. We also believe that it is imperative to use comparable costs on the score card as we measure costs between storage projects. We suggest a session, or sub-committee should be tasked to choose criteria and measurement for the scorecard.

This also might be an appropriate "check point" with State legislative and Congressional representatives.

The term "benefits" is being used in material provided to the Work Group and appears in Task 7 as "ecosystem benefits". This seems to be used in the context of "ecosystem accomplishments" as contrasted with monetary benefits such as in a benefit-cost analysis. We suggest the term "accomplishments" be used rather than "benefits."

An important task not included is that addressing potential non-Federal cost sharing, the allocation of project costs to the project purposes, and the repayment of reimbursable costs. We suggest these be included as a task (power and recreation).

Potential water supply projects include Columbia River pumping with or without storage. Current State policy precludes Columbia River withdrawals in July and August so another water source or some storage is required during these two months. There is however, the issue of maintenance of Columbia River instream target flows and the availability of water to pump in excess of such flows in other months of the irrigation season, particularly in a sequence of below average water years. Thus, an essential early task should be to address this issue as a prerequisite to any activities concerning potential Columbia River pumping projects in the Integrated Management Plan. The conclusions should be validated with the appropriate Federal and State agencies.

12/2/09

YBSA comments on the draft plan v01:

1. Under "water supply" point 2; we suggest adding two words to the end of the sentence: "with storage"
2. Last bullet page 1-all alternatives should be compared on same cost basis-we suggest construction costs.
3. Page 2 first bullet: we believe a scorecard with all the alternatives is the best way to understand the various alternatives, and that we need to quantify the number of fish escapement numbers with each. Further we believe that we must put in the bookends; doing nothing, and the largest volume project, Black Rock reservoir.