

Appendix I NOTICE OF PREPARATION

To: _____

(Address)

From: California Department of Water Resources
Chief, Northern District

(Address)
2440 Main Street, Red Bluff, California 96080

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

California Department of Water Resources _____ will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an environmental impact report for the project identified below. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials. A copy of the Initial Study (is is not) attached.

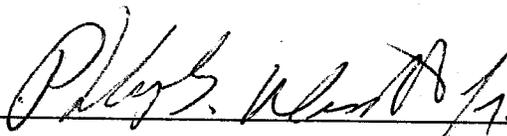
Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please send your response to Dwight Russell _____ at the address shown above. We will need the name for a contact person in your agency.

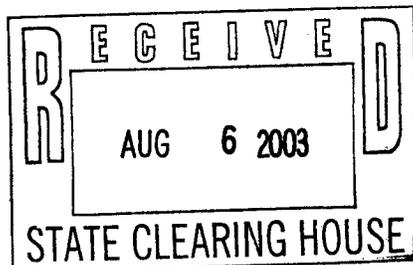
Project Title: Sacramento Valley Water Management Program Implementation of Short-term Projects Implemen

Project Applicant, if any: _____

Date August 5, 2003

Signature 
Title Chief, Division of Environmental Services
Telephone 916-227-7531

Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Sections 15082(a), 15103, 15375.



Notice of Preparation of
Programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Statement
Department of Water Resources
Sacramento Valley Water Management Program
Implementation of Short-term Projects

Introduction

The Department of Water Resources (DWR), as the state lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) as the federal lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will prepare a Programmatic EIS/EIR to analyze the potential effects of the short-term phase of the Sacramento Valley Water Management Program (Short-term Program). The Short-term Program includes implementing multiple short-term water management projects and other actions. The short-term projects would be implemented by DWR, Reclamation, and Sacramento Valley water-users, and each project would operate for 10 years after implementation. The programmatic analysis in this EIS/EIR would include, but is not limited to, projects described in the "*Sacramento Valley Water Management Agreement Short-term Workplan, October, 2001*" ("Short-term Workplan"). The purpose of implementing the Short-term Program is to promote better water management in the Sacramento Valley and develop additional water supplies through a cooperative water management partnership. The Short-term Program was developed to resolve water quality and water rights issues as an alternative to determining responsibility for flow-related water quality objectives of the 1995 Sacramento/San Joaquin Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan through a State Water Resources Control Board water rights hearing.

The environmental effects of some short-term projects would also be analyzed at a site-specific level of detail in the Programmatic EIS/EIR, and would constitute the final CEQA or NEPA document for those projects. As many short-term projects as possible would be analyzed at a site-specific level; however, the specific projects to be analyzed at that level are unknown at this time. Specific alternatives have not been identified at this time, and will be developed following scoping. Public scoping meetings regarding the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/EIR will be conducted as described below.

The purpose of this notice is to obtain suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues to be addressed in the Programmatic EIS/EIR. Comments and participation in this scoping process are encouraged.

DATES: Two public scoping meetings will be held:

Wednesday, August 20, 2003, 3 -5 p.m., Sacramento, CA

Thursday, August 21, 2003, 3 - 5 p.m., Colusa, CA

ADDRESSES: Scoping meetings will be held at:

Sacramento at Expo Inn

1413 Howe Avenue (just south of Arden Way)

The Expo Room.

Colusa at Colusa Industrial Properties

100 Sunrise Boulevard (off Hwy 45/20)

The Conference Room.

Written comments on the scope of the alternatives and impacts should be sent to Dwight Russell, District Chief, Department of Water Resources, Division of Planning and Local Assistance, Northern District Office, 2440 Main Street, Red Bluff, California 96080 by September 5, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stacy Cepello at (530) 529-7352, or go to the project website (www.svwma.org).

Background

As an alternative to participating in the State Water Resources Control Board's Phase 8 Bay-Delta Water Rights Hearings, Reclamation, DWR, and numerous Sacramento Valley and export water interests entered into the "*Short-term Agreement to Guide Implementation of the Short-term Water Management Actions to Meet Local Water Supply Needs and to Make Water Available to the SWP and CVP to Assist In Meeting the Requirements of the 1995 Water Quality Control Plan and to Resolve Phase 8 Issues*" (the Short-term Settlement Agreement). The Short-term Settlement Agreement established a process by which parties collaborate in the development and implementation of a variety of projects and actions to help meet flow-related water quality objectives established for the Sacramento/San Joaquin Bay-Delta, meet local water needs, and improve water supplies throughout the State.

Five categories of short-term projects and actions will be considered in the Programmatic EIS/EIR:

Water Management – includes groundwater substitution in lieu of surface water supplies, conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water, refurbish existing groundwater extraction wells, install groundwater monitoring stations, and install new groundwater extraction wells (some actions include construction of facilities)

Reservoir Re-operation – includes changes in the operational diagrams and schedules for reservoirs in the Sacramento River watershed

System Improvement – includes canal lining, tailwater recovery, and improved operations (some actions include construction of facilities)

Surface Water and Groundwater Planning – includes studies, modeling, monitoring, and area wide inventory or assessment (actions could include minor construction of facilities for monitoring and testing purposes)

Other Actions – includes potential water transfer actions and/or actions with substantial regulatory/institutional requirements (does not involve construction of facilities).

The effects of implementing the Short-term Program (short-term projects and actions) will be evaluated at the programmatic level. The known short-term projects throughout the Sacramento Valley are presented in Table 1. In addition to the programmatic analysis, some projects would also be analyzed at a site-specific level to allow for their immediate implementation. As many projects as possible would be analyzed at a site-specific level of review; however, the specific projects to be analyzed at that level are unknown at this time.

Table 1. Proposed short-term water management projects to be analyzed in the Programmatic EIS/EIR *

Project Name (Type)	Proponent	County	Description
Conjunctive Use Program (Water Management)	Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District	Shasta County	Construct monitoring and extraction wells.
Churn Creek Lateral Improvements (System Improvement)	Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District	Shasta County	Replace leaky canal lateral with pipeline in the reach east of the Sacramento River to eliminate seepage and spills.
Main Canal Modernization Project (System Improvement)	Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District	Shasta County	Construct canal improvements to eliminate spills and reduce diversions.
Redding Basin Water Resources Management Plan (Surface Water/Groundwater Planning)	Shasta County Water Agency	Shasta County	Complete Phase 2C - Water Supply and Management Alternatives, part of multi-step planning process.

Table 1. Proposed short-term water management projects to be analyzed in the Programmatic EIS/EIR *

Project Name (Type)	Proponent	County	Description
Integrated Watershed and Resource Conservation Program (Surface Water/Groundwater Planning)	Butte County	Butte County	Integrated watershed and resource conservation, groundwater monitoring and modeling, forecast water use.
Groundwater Monitoring Program (Surface Water/Groundwater Planning)	Butte County	Butte County	Install additional monitoring wells and extensometers, monitoring.
Groundwater Modeling Program (Surface Water/Groundwater Planning)	Butte County	Butte County	Update existing model to support decision-making about groundwater resources, as well as overall water resources management in the County.
Sutter-Butte Main Canal Lining Project (System Improvement)	Sutter Extension Water District, Gridley Water District, Richvale Irrigation District	Butte and Sutter Counties	Conduct field study, obtain environmental permits, develop final construction drawings, construct.
Concow Dam (Reservoir Re-operation)	Thermalito Irrigation District	Butte County	Feasibility study for raising existing concrete dam.
Water Management Project (Water Management)	RD 1004	Colusa County	Install extraction wells.
Development of Conjunctive Water Management Facilities (Water Management)	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District	Glenn and Colusa Counties	Fully use private landowner wells.

Table 1. Proposed short-term water management projects to be analyzed in the Programmatic EIS/EIR *

Project Name (Type)	Proponent	County	Description
Conjunctive Use Project (Water Management)	Maxwell Irrigation District	Colusa County	Test-hole drilling, evaluation and production well construction and testing, groundwater monitoring.
Stony Creek Fan Conjunctive Water Management Program (Water Management)	Orland-Artois Water District, Orland Unit Water Users' Association, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District	Glenn County	Feasibility study, groundwater production investigation, groundwater monitoring program, integrated groundwater/surface water model, and outreach plan.
Pilot Well Development/ Conjunctive Management Project (Water Management)	RD 108	Colusa and Yolo Counties	Development of production wells and analysis of basin responses.
Tehama-Colusa Canal Extension (Water Management and System Improvement)	Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, Yolo-Zamora Water District	Colusa and Yolo Counties	Prepare hydrologic and concept reports, conduct preliminary design, and collect information for project-specific environmental analysis.
Glenn County Groundwater Monitoring Program and Model Development (Surface Water/Groundwater Planning)	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District	Glenn County	Develop groundwater data clearinghouse, analyze existing data, design monitoring program, install new monitoring wells, develop groundwater model.
Water Inventory and Analysis (Surface Water/Groundwater Planning)	Tehama County	Tehama County	Information gathering process and analysis.

Table 1. Proposed short-term water management projects to be analyzed in the Programmatic EIS/EIR *

Project Name (Type)	Proponent	County	Description
Feasibility Study: Regulatory Reservoirs and Off-canal Storage (Surface Water/Groundwater Planning)	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District	Glenn and Colusa Counties	Feasibility study.
Flow Measurement Devices in Main Canal, Lateral System, and Drain Outflow Points/Existing Automation Program (System Improvement)	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District	Glenn and Colusa Counties	Permitting, design, and construction of 12 flow measurement devices at previously identified system outflow points/permitting, design, and construction of 5 Main Canal check structures.
Regional Water Use Efficiency Project (System Improvement)	Orland Unit Water Users Association and Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority	Glenn County	Conduct feasibility studies, build pilot projects, and begin conceptual design of regional pipeline.
Development of Conveyance Alternatives for TCCA Emergency Water Supplies (System Improvement)	Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority	Colusa County	Feasibility study for Stony Creek conveyance options; investigate an interim solution to operate a constant head orifice; agency coordination and permit planning.
Tehama-Colusa Canal Conveyance of Water to Sites Reservoir (System Improvement)	Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority	Glenn and Colusa Counties	Feasibility study, review ability of Tehama-Colusa Canal to convey potential water to a Sites Reservoir.

Table 1. Proposed short-term water management projects to be analyzed in the Programmatic EIS/EIR *

Project Name (Type)	Proponent	County	Description
Antelope Creek Retention Basin Feasibility Study (Surface Water/Groundwater Planning)	Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	Tehama County	Feasibility study for construction of a retention basin.
Water Management Project (Water Management)	Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District	Glenn and Colusa Counties	Construct one groundwater extraction well.
Water Management Project (Water Management)	Provident Irrigation District	Glenn and Colusa Counties	Construct one groundwater extraction well.
Groundwater Management Project (Water Management)	River Garden Farms	Yolo County	Construct three groundwater extraction wells.
Coordinated Operations Project (Surface Water/Groundwater Planning)	Yuba County Water Agency	Yuba County	Feasibility investigation of water supply benefits for out-of-county use, environmental and Endangered Species Act assessment, and potential increased flood control benefits.
Conjunctive Use and Water Management Project (Water Management)	Brown's Valley Irrigation District	Yuba County	Development of four groundwater production wells in lower portion of district and a lift pump and conveyance pipe to supply water to upper end of district.
Conjunctive Use Project (Water Management)	Yuba County Water Agency	Yuba County	Installation of extraction wells.

Table 1. Proposed short-term water management projects to be analyzed in the Programmatic EIS/EIR *

Project Name (Type)	Proponent	County	Description
Groundwater Monitoring Program (Surface Water/Groundwater Planning)	Sutter Mutual Water Company	Sutter County	Additional monitoring well, monitoring and data collection.
Watershed Assessment and Monitoring Program (Surface Water/Groundwater Planning)	Sutter County	Sutter County	Information gathering process and analysis.
Groundwater Management Plan (Surface Water/Groundwater Planning)	Sutter County	Sutter County	Information gathering process and analysis.
Irrigation Recycle Project (System Improvement)	Sutter Mutual Water Company, RD 1500	Sutter County	Feasibility analysis of a tailwater recovery system.
Canal Lining (System Improvement)	Sutter Mutual Water Company	Sutter County	Canal lining to reduce diversions, eliminate spills.
Ground Water Development (Water Management)	Pelger Mutual Water Company	Sutter County	Construct two groundwater extraction wells.
Water Management Project (Water Management)	Meridian Farms	Sutter County	Installation of extraction wells.
Conjunctive Use Project (Water Management)	Natomas Central Mutual Water Company	Sacramento and Sutter Counties	Pump existing wells, monitoring and analyzing results after one season.

Table 1. Proposed short-term water management projects to be analyzed in the Programmatic EIS/EIR *

Project Name (Type)	Proponent	County	Description
Water Management Project (Water Management)	Pleasant Grove-Verona Mutual Water Company	Sutter County	Installation of extraction wells.
Re-operation of the Middle Fork Project (Reservoir Re-operation)	Placer County Water Agency	Placer County	Re-operate primary storage reservoirs.
Yolo Subregion			
Conjunctive Use Project Feasibility Study for Expanding Surface Water Supplies to the Yolo-Zamora Water District (Surface Water/Groundwater Planning and System Improvement)	Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	Yolo County	Feasibility study for expanding surface water supplies to Yolo Zamora.
Conjunctive Use Project Feasibility Study for Expanding Surface Water Supplies to Agricultural Water Users in Areas (Surface Water/Groundwater Planning and System Improvement)	Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	Yolo County	Feasibility study for expanding surface water supplies to agricultural areas northwest of Woodland.
Groundwater Quality Monitoring Program (Surface Water/Groundwater Planning)	Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	Yolo County	Development of a groundwater-quality monitoring program.
Butte Subregion			

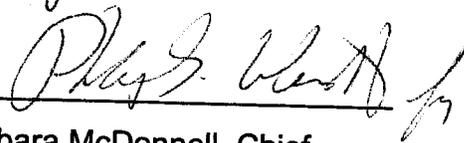
Table 1. Proposed short-term water management projects to be analyzed in the Programmatic EIS/EIR *

Project Name (Type)	Proponent	County	Description
Conjunctive Use Proposal (Water Management)	RD 2068	Yolo County	Develop a single production well to determine conjunctive use potential.
Sacramento Valley			
Sub-basin-level Water Measurement (Surface Water/Groundwater Planning)	Participants in the Basin wide Management Plan	Sacramento Valley – Various Counties	Feasibility study, design and construction of water measurement facilities.

* The effects analysis in the Programmatic EIS/EIR would not be limited to these projects, and would include all short-term projects and actions that could be proposed under the Sacramento Valley Water Management Program.

This Programmatic EIS/EIR is expected to analyze the adverse and beneficial effects of implementing the Short-term Program on these environmental resources: surface water, groundwater, water quality, fisheries, wildlife, vegetation, special-status species, land-use, cultural resources, air quality, noise, recreation, energy, visual impacts, and socioeconomic conditions. Analysis presented in the Programmatic EIS/EIR will also determine if environmental justice issues are associated with the Short-term Program.

Dated: Aug. 6, 2003

Signed: 

Barbara McDonnell, Chief

Division of Environmental Services