



INFORMATION ITEM

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Update on Reduced Reliance and Water Management Plans

Summary

At today's meeting, staff from DWR and the Metropolitan Water District will summarize the findings of the recent analysis of reduced reliance and regional self-reliance approaches undertaken by water suppliers in their 2020 UWMPs and AWMPs.

Background

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 (Delta Reform Act) (Wat. Code 85000, et seq.) states:

The policy of the State of California is to reduce reliance on the Delta in meeting California's future water supply needs through a statewide strategy of investing in improved regional supplies, conservation, and water use efficiency. Each region that depends on water from the Delta watershed shall improve its regional self-reliance for water through investment in water use efficiency, water recycling, advanced water technologies, local and regional water supply projects, and improved regional coordination of local and regional water supply efforts. (Cal. Wat. Code 85021)

The Delta Plan includes a recommendation, **WR R4**, that *all* water suppliers that receive water from the Delta watershed should detail how they are reducing reliance on the Delta and improving regional self-reliance consistent with Water Code section 85021 in their urban and/or agricultural water management plans. A separate Delta Plan regulatory policy, **WR P1**, requires water suppliers that would receive water as a result of a covered action to demonstrate reduced reliance on the Delta, which includes completing urban or agricultural water management plans. (23 Cal. Code Regs. 5003 ("WR P1"))

To assist water suppliers in meeting this requirement, and as called for in the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio, the Department of Water Resources (DWR), in coordination with the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) staff and State Water Contractors, developed appendices for the 2020 urban and agricultural water management plan guidebooks that provide example approaches on documenting reduced reliance on the Delta for potential inclusion in the 2020 Urban and Agricultural Water Management Plans prepared by water suppliers. These plans support suppliers' resource planning and help ensure a more reliable long-term water supply. For Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs), this includes content to assess the reliability of water sources over 20 years, progress towards a 20% per capita use reduction target use, and other factors. Agricultural Water Management Plans (AWMPs) include guidelines on water supplies, uses, and information on the implementation status of efficient water management practices.

The approach set forth in the UWMP guidebook appendix produces Delta water reduction estimates both in volume and as a percentage of total water used by the supplier. The approach in the AWMP guidebook appendix produces a water reduction estimate, based on the volume of Delta water received by a supplier. The approach includes both past and projected Delta water use. DWR recently compiled and analyzed data reported by individual water agencies in their respective UWMPs and AWMPs. UWMPs from 238 suppliers were reviewed. Out of that number, 52 of the urban suppliers analyzed reductions in reliance on the Delta using projections of future water use. The other 186 of the 238 urban suppliers were unable to explicitly quantify their Delta water use. These suppliers were instead assessed for their improved regional self-reliance. Of these 186, 173 showed an improvement in regional self-reliance or in some cases, demonstrated full regional self-reliance and no use of imported water; the remaining 13 urban suppliers were unable to demonstrate an improvement in regional self-reliance within their UWMPs.

Agricultural water management plans from ten agricultural suppliers were reviewed. Seven of the ten plans include explicit accounting of water use from the Delta, presented in the format suggested by the DWR AWMP Guidebook. The remaining three plans discuss the reduction in reliance on the Delta qualitatively. The analysis conducted for this study represents a potential approach to documenting reduced Delta reliance.

Fiscal Information

Not applicable.

List of Attachments

No attachments.

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