

REGIONAL DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN & REGIONAL WATER RELIABILITY PLAN CENTRAL SUB-REGIONAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 8, 2017; 1:00-4:00 pm
 5620 Birdcage Street, Suite 110
 Citrus Heights, CA 95610
 (916) 967-7692

ATTENDEES

Organization	Attendee(s)
SCWA	Dave Underwood, Mike Hout
SSWD	Dan York
CWD	Steve Nugent
RLECWD	Ralph Felix
FOWD	Tom R. Gray
City of Sacramento	Brett Ewart
ECWA	Derrick Whitehead
DPMWD	Debra Sewick, Rich Bolton
CHWD	David Gordon, Brian Mueller
SJWD	Tony Barela, Greg Zlotncik
City of Folsom	Marcus Yasutake
GSWC	Paul Schubert
RWA	Rob Swartz
GEI	Chris Petersen, Irene Ramirez
MWH/Stantec	Vanessa Nishikawa, Ibrahim Kadham, Ying-Hsin Sun

MEETING SUMMARY

- Presentation topics included: Regional Drought Contingency Plan/Regional Water Reliability Plan background and process review, overview of vulnerabilities and mitigation actions/opportunities, in-depth group discussion on vulnerabilities and mitigation actions/opportunities by vulnerability category, and next steps.
- Agenda, hard copy of the presentation slides, 11x17 Vulnerabilities by Agency, and Identified Subregional Vulnerabilities and Mitigation Actions/Opportunities were distributed as materials (also attached).
- See updated Vulnerabilities and Mitigation Action/Opportunities (attached) for summary of mitigation actions discussion.
- Questions, parking lot items, other feedback and discussion items:

During the Central Sub-Regional meeting, several ideas were proposed that warrant further consideration during the course of this investigation. These items are listed below in the order in which they were discussed during the meeting.

1. Regional Coordinated Operating Strategy: Derrick Whitehead suggested that sub-regions and the region as a whole develop coordinated operating strategies to respond quickly to changing conditions to better meet the stated goals of improved water reliability and increased conjunctive use. Specific operational scenarios should be developed for each of the following conditions at a minimum:
 - a. Individual dry year
 - b. Multiple dry years
 - c. Extreme wet conditions (such as this year)
 - d. Emergencies that could affect the region (i.e. infrastructure failure or water quality degradation that limits or prevents use of water from Folsom), problem with diversions on American or Sacramento Rivers, etc....
2. Regional Distribution System Model: Brett Ewert suggested that regional distribution system modeling be considered either as part of this study or a future study to better understand how to optimize the movement of water throughout the region considering pressure differences between agencies, intertie locations and size, regional and local water pipeline diameter and locations. This tool could then be used as a planning and conceptual design tool by evaluating the benefits of water system improvements identified in this study.
3. Customer Concerns regarding Water Quality: This topic deserves attention and development of broad recommendations pertaining to system operations. Experience has shown that changing water supply sources, such as switching from surface water to groundwater, causes great concern among customers. SSWD is the exception because they have long history of switching between surface and groundwater. This study should include recommendations on best management practice to be considered by local agencies as the region works together to increase conjunctive use and improve water reliability.
4. Data Transparency: It was noted that monitoring and measurement data must be collected and readily available by all cooperating agencies involved in regional projects. This will improve understanding on how to best optimize water system operations, is needed to properly assign cost and benefit, serves as the foundation for good decision making and management, and increases trust among all affected parties.

5. Folsom Storage: Steve Nugent indicate that his District is interested in storage their water right in Folsom, but this is not currently possible based on the current operation of Folsom. It was noted that if the region continues to move forward with a "Reclamation Recognized Groundwater Bank", that RWA should explore the possibility with USBR of accommodating Carmichael and others interested in storing their water either in Folsom or the groundwater bank.
6. Surface Water Rights Protection: There was broad interest in the development of projects and management strategies to protect local agency water rights in light of an uncertain climate and regulatory future. As we move forward with the groundwater bank, we need to have groundwater recharge and storage recognized as a beneficial use of water. This is central to the success of this project.
7. Aging Groundwater Wells and Associated Facilities: It was noted that groundwater wells throughout the region are aging and in need of replacement. This will need to be a sustained effort for many decades. Make this investment is difficult for several reasons including:
 - a. Regional trend has been away from groundwater use, so boards and public don't understand the need for replacement
 - b. Groundwater quality concerns including new contaminants of concern every few years make investment in groundwater production difficult.
 - c. Cost of operating groundwater systems for extraction and injection is costly
 - d. Land available for new or replacement wells is extremely limited in many communities throughout the region

These hurdles need to be overcome to effectively increase conjunctive use in the region. A regional approach to overcoming these obstacles is needed.
8. Regional Need for Water Infrastructure Repair: The national trend has been away from infrastructure maintenance for decades. This is true of the Sacramento region as well. The level of investment needed to correct this problem in the Sacramento region will be huge. A hopeful outcome of this study and development of a groundwater bank is to create another revenue stream (via transfers and exchanges) to help fund the needed repairs and improvements.
9. Impact of Recent and Historic Floods on Wells: It was noted that floods of 1986 caused bacterial contamination of local communities in flood impacted areas. It's too soon yet to know what impacts, if any, have resulted from the recent flooding. It would be good to document these well and other infrastructure vulnerabilities so that they are considered in the alternatives developed through this project.
10. SJWD/Roseville Intertie @ Barton Road WTP: Derrick Whitehead described an interties that exists at this location that could be used to share large volumes of water between the two agencies. This should be considered in the alternatives that are developed in this study.
11. Loss of Institutional Knowledge: Item 10 above sparked a more general discussion regarding the need to address the loss of institutional knowledge as water operations staff and managers retire. This is especially true in smaller water agencies that have fewer staff to begin with.

- Next Joint RDCP/RWRP meeting tentatively scheduled for: Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 1:00pm at RWA office.
- **Action Items:**
 - SJWD, Tony to follow up with Derrick Whitehead regarding the size, location and feasibility of using the intertie between Roseville and SJWD at Barton Road to improve supply reliability.
 - Brett Ewert to provide MWH with a GIS coverage of all the City's interties.