Appendix 36B
Scoping Report

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Integrated Storage Investigations

CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage Investigation

Scoping Report

October 2002

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North-of-the-Delta
Offstream Storage Investigation

Scoping Report

October 2002

Gray Davis
Governor
State of California

Mary D. Nichols
Secretary for Resources
The Resources Agency

Thomas M. Hannigan
Director
Department of Water Resources

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North-of-the-Delta
Offstream Storage Investigation

Scoping Report

1.0 Summary of Scoping Process

The scoping process is used to identify the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant effects to be analyzed in depth in the environmental documentation and to eliminate from detailed study issues found not to be important.

This report is an overview of the written and verbal comments received on the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage Investigation. The purpose of this report is to: summarize the public concerns; evaluate the magnitude of concerns; and help decisionmakers decide on the range of alternatives for North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage to be considered in the 404(b)(1) analysis and the Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report.

2.0 North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage Investigation Background

The North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage Investigation was identified in the CALFED Record of Decision as one of five potential surface storage programs that could be implemented as part of a comprehensive plan to restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses in the Bay-Delta system. The ROD specifically mentions Sites Reservoir as one of the surface projects requiring further consideration. The consideration of Sites Reservoir requires further technical work and environmental review including compliance with all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Therefore, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) as the lead agency under NEPA and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) as the lead agency under CEQA are undertaking the process of developing alternatives to Sites Reservoir as part of the NODOS. These alternatives will be formulated and then evaluated in the Clean Water Act 404(b)(1) process and the Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report process.

2.1 Draft EIS/EIR Outline

A copy of the draft outline of the EIS/EIR has been included in Appendix J to help in understanding how the documents will be organized.

3.0 Notification Process

To achieve the objectives stated in section 1.0, the public is notified of the proposed action and input is solicited during a comment period at which time the public may comment, in writing or in oral testimony, on the proposed action. Public meetings are held during this time to facilitate public input.

On November 9, 2001, the Federal Notice of Intent (Appendix A) was published in the Federal Register and on November 5, 2001, the State Clearinghouse mailed the Notice of Preparation (Appendix B). The NOI and NOP notified the public of the proposal, announced the dates and locations of public meetings, and solicited public comments. Public notification was also made through direct mailings (Appendix C) to local landowners and by advertisements in four different newspapers prior to the public meetings (Appendix D). In addition, a news release was placed on the DWR website homepage. The formal scoping

process for the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage Investigation began with the publication of the NOI and NOP and concluded on February 8, 2002. During the scoping period, three public, and one tribal, scoping meetings were held, as described below.

Public involvement will continue beyond the scoping process. Reclamation and DWR are committed to working with the public and interest groups in public informational meetings to continue to develop and refine the investigation's objectives. Once the draft environmental documents have been prepared, they will be made available to all interested parties for review. The availability of the environmental documents will be announced and a public comment period will follow to allow the public opportunity to comment on the findings of the documents. At the conclusion of this public comment period, Reclamation and DWR will address the comments and make final the environmental documents.

3.1 Scoping Meetings

Interested parties were encouraged to attend scoping meetings to provide verbal comments. Due to the nature of the project, scoping meetings were held in three locations to generate local interest and input. A fourth meeting was held with the potentially impacted Indian Tribes in the investigation area. The locations, dates and times, and number of attendees at each meeting are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Summary of Scoping Meetings

Meeting Location	Date and Time	Attendees[a]
Sacramento	January 8, 2002 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	35
Maxwell	January 9, 2002 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	115
Fresno	January 15, 2002 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	8
Cortina Indian Rancheria Office – Williams, CA	January 23, 2002 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	9

[a] "Attendees" is a count of those parties that signed the guest register at the meeting; not everyone in attendance at the scoping meetings signed the guest register

Reclamation and DWR staff greeted attendees as they arrived and offered them comment cards. Attendees were encouraged to sign in on the guest register as part of an effort to create a master mailing list of those interested in the investigation. After introductions at the beginning of each meeting, Sean Sou, DWR's Project Manager, made a presentation concerning NODOS. Following the presentation the meeting was opened up for comments. All comments were recorded and transcribed.

4.0 Summary of Comments and Responses

Numerous individual verbal and written comments were received during the scoping process. Thirty-three people gave verbal comments during the public scoping meetings – 4 people provided comments in Sacramento, 23 people provided comments in Maxwell, no one provided comments in Fresno, and 6 people provided comments during the Tribal Scoping Meeting in Williams. Also, 34 letters were received during scoping, containing numerous individual comments. The letters were received from:

- Jeff Borland
- Sasha Borland
- Butte County, Board of Supervisors (Mary Anne Houx)

- California, Department of Food and Agriculture
- California, Secretary of State (Bill Jones)
- California Waterfowl Association
- Colusa County, Administrative Office (David J. Shoemaker)
- John and Nita Connelly
- Walter Cook
- Delta Keeper (Bill Jennings)
- Economic Development Corporation (William R. Waite)
- Friends of the River (Steve Evans)
- John Hancock/Brenda Brandon for Haskell Environmental Research Studies Center and Pomo Upperlake Reservation
- John and Janice Garino
- Kenneth Gilmore
- John S. Mills for Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC)
- John L. Morton
- Kern County Water Agency
- Metropolitan Water District
- Northern California Power Agency (Alan Zepp)
- Edward Owens
- Redding Electric Utility (James C. Feider)
- Richard Riolo
- Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (Paul Olmstead)
- Sacramento River Preservation Trust (John Merz)
- Senate Select Committee on CALFED (K. Maurice Johannessen)
- Brent Shanahan
- Shasta County Board of Supervisors, Patricia A. "Trish" Clark
- State Water Contractors
- The Bay Institute of San Francisco (Gary Bobker)
- United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs
- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- Tyrone Wolatt
- Yolo County Board of Supervisors

4.1 Comment Categories

In order to facilitate review, the comments have been grouped into the following categories:

Category 1: Identify Beneficial Users and Share Costs

Category 2: Purpose and Needs

Category 3: Project Alternatives

Category 4: Economic and Land Use Impacts

Category 5: Cumulative Impacts

Category 6: NEPA/CEQA Compliance

Category 7: Fisheries Impact

Category 8: Water Quality

Category 9: Air Quality

Category 10: Ground Water Levels

Category 11: Water Supply

Category 12: Flow Regimes

Category 13: Project Yield

Category 14: Geology and Seismicity

Category 15: Recreational Opportunities

Category 16: Power Use and Costs

Category 17: CALFED Linkage

Category 18: Relationship to other Water Projects

Category 19: Flood/Emergency Reservoir Release Impacts

Category 20: Sites Reservoir Alternative

Category 21: Request to be a Cooperating Agency

Category 22: Indian Trust Assets

Category 23: Cultural Resources

Category 24: Newville Reservoir Alternative

Category 25: Issues not addressed in Environmental Documentation

4.2 Category Summaries and Responses

The following sections give a synopsis of the comments received in each category, and a response as to how that category of comment will be addressed in the environmental documentation.

Category 1: Identify Beneficial Users and Share Costs

Summary: Forty-five comments concerning identification of beneficial users and cost allocation were received. These comments ranged from stating that the direct beneficial users of water from this investigation need to be identified, to comments questioning who the possible secondary beneficiaries might be if additional flexibility is created in the statewide water system by the operation of this program. Of the forty-five comments, eighteen dealt specifically with the costs of the program and the need to have the beneficial users pay for the water.

Response: Reclamation and DWR are partners with local water interests and other State and federal agencies. They will continue to work on identifying beneficiaries while drafts of the Engineering Feasibility report and EIS/EIR are written. If beneficial users are not identified by the time the EIS/EIR is final, a supplemental environmental report may need to be prepared. The cost of the project will be determined from the DWR feasibility study that is concurrently being developed.

Category 2: Purpose and Needs

Summary: There were twenty comments concerning the investigation's purpose and need. Six of the comments offered possible purposes and needs, and reasons of justification. The remaining comments in this section stated that a purpose and need statement must be developed in order to screen project alternatives. Other comments requested that the needs for new surface storage be addressed in the environmental documents.

Response: Reclamation, DWR, and the Planning Partnership are jointly developing a purpose and need statement for North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage. The purpose and need statement is being developed with input from stakeholders, environmental interests, and regulatory agencies. The purpose and need statement will be used to screen alternatives in the 404(b)(1) analysis and the EIS/EIR. Future water need in California will be discussed in the environmental documents.

Category 3: Project Alternatives

Summary: Fifty-seven comments were directed towards investigation alternatives. Some comments were specific in the additional types or range of alternatives – such as water use efficiency, conjunctive use, land fallowing, wastewater reclamation and recycling, and Lake Shasta enlargement – that should be considered in the environmental documents. Others discussed more generally what alternatives should or should not be looked at, or what some of the possible benefits or impacts of certain alternatives might be.

Response: North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage will evaluate Sites Reservoir and a reasonable range of alternatives as part of the Clean Water Act, Section 404 (b)(1) analysis. The alternatives will be screened and evaluated based on the ability to meet the purpose, objectives and screening criteria for North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage. Alternatives that do not meet any of the purpose and objectives will not be carried forward for analysis in the EIS/EIR. Alternatives evaluated in the EIS/EIR will be evaluated at comparable levels of detail.

Category 4: Economic and Land Use Impacts

Summary: Economics were addressed in twenty-three separate comments. These comments ranged from discussing the local economic impacts of changes in land use and the removal of those properties from the county tax base to determining the cost to benefit ratios for the various alternatives that will be developed. Other comments express concerns about impacts to landowners who will be relocated and access routes for the public. Further, several comments were directed at the impact of integrating this investigation with the Central Valley Project.

Response: As the investigation alternatives are developed and evaluated, economic analysis will be done so that these impacts can be addressed. Reclamation and DWR will continue to seek input from the public and other agencies to quantify the actual fiscal impacts of implementation of this investigation.

Category 5: Cumulative Impacts

Summary: Five comments were made about cumulative impacts. These comments addressed the need to fully analyze and disclose cumulative impacts and questioned how new storage could change land use and water use throughout the state.

Response: Under NEPA and CEQA cumulative impacts must be addressed. NODOS is working with other CALFED programs to determine cumulative impacts and to develop a standard method of determining and reporting cumulative impacts across all programs. These impacts will be discussed in the EIS/EIR Cumulative Impacts chapter.

Category 6: NEPA/CEQA Compliance

Summary: Thirty comments were identified as addressing NEPA/CEQA compliance issues. Those comments ranged from discussions of general environmental impacts, fish and wildlife impacts, and environmental justice issues to area of origin concerns.

Response: Reclamation and DWR staff will be working with regulatory agencies at the federal and State levels to ensure compliance with NEPA and CEQA. The scoping period and this scoping report are the first steps in this process.

The EIS/EIR will identify environmental impacts for each of the alternatives. Environmental impacts will be evaluated by resource categories. The various resource categories to be evaluated are shown in the draft outline of EIS/EIR chapters included in this scoping report.

Category 7: Fisheries Impact

Summary: Four comments on fisheries impacts were submitted. Of greatest concern are the impacts of changed diversion timing and location on anadromous fish. One comment suggested the need to discuss various benefits to fish because of changed releases out of other reservoirs.

Response: Impacts to fisheries and their habitat resulting from the diversion of water from the Sacramento River to fill an offstream storage facility will be evaluated in the EIS/EIR. A flow-regime technical advisory group has been formed to assist in the evaluation of potential impacts, mitigation, and benefits associated with North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage related to meander and ecosystem development. One of the tasks for the flow-regime technical advisory group is to characterize diversion limits (pattern/timing, volume) to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to environmental values, including fish migration.

Category 8: Water Quality

Summary: There were five comments on water quality. Concern was expressed over pollutants in one of the proposed storage locations. Questions were raised concerning changes in both surface and groundwater quality, and changes in water quality in the Bay-Delta area, and mitigation measures for impacts to Delta water quality caused by implementation of CALFED Stage 1 facilities and operations.

Response: Water quality will be evaluated in the EIS/EIR. The evaluation will consider temperature and physical and organic constituents. The evaluation will consider incremental changes that could occur due to the diversion, conveyance, storage, and discharge of the water and at each of the sites where these activities could occur. The water quality changes and values will be compared to beneficial uses of the streams, irrigation water, and groundwater both at the diversion, conveyance, storage, and discharge site and incremental changes that could occur downstream of these locations.

Category 9: Air Quality

Summary: Three comments were received about air quality. The comments pointed out the need to discuss air quality standards, ambient conditions, and potential air quality impacts for the region. In addition, the Clean Air Act requirements need to be conformed with and that environmental documents should evaluate the extent that the proposed project may release a significant amount of these pollutants and include a description of the new ozone and PM2.5 standards.

Response: The impacts to air quality of each alternative will be analyzed in the Air Quality chapter of the EIS/EIR. The impacts to air quality due to construction, road relocations and increased driving times for local residents and possible increased traffic due to recreational opportunities will be examined.

Category 10: Groundwater Levels

Summary: Three comments were received concerning groundwater levels. The comments requested that geological and engineering studies to evaluate the effects of groundwater levels on lands in the vicinity or downstream of the reservoir locations be conducted.

Response: DWR, through its feasibility studies, has studied groundwater and the seepage potential at various storage locations. Seepage potential will be summarized in the feasibility report. Direct and indirect impacts on groundwater levels will be evaluated in the Groundwater Resources and Groundwater Quality chapter of the EIS/EIR.

Category 11: Water Supply

Summary: Thirteen comments were submitted discussing water supply issues. Several comments were directed toward the inadequacy of the existing supply infrastructure and the increasing pressure placed on it by continued population growth throughout the state. Concern was expressed about changes in other area water supplies if this program were implemented, as well as the possible adverse impacts on water supplies due to global warming.

Response: This investigation was formulated as a component of CALFED's comprehensive plan to address water supply issues. The impacts of the alternatives for offstream storage to local and regional water supplies will be examined in the Water Supply chapter of the EIS/EIR.

Category 12: Flow Regimes

Summary: Thirteen comments concerning flow regime were submitted. The major concerns are the potential impacts of new or changed diversions on river geomorphology, riparian and aquatic habitats, river meander and flows.

Response: Potential effects on the Sacramento River flow regime will be evaluated and addressed in the EIS/EIR. A flow-regime technical advisory group has been formed to assist in the evaluation of potential impacts, mitigation, and benefits associated with North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage related to meander and ecosystem development. The flow regime TAG will also evaluate geomorphology, meander migration, and ecosystem development associated with the operation of an offstream storage project in the Sacramento River.

Category 13: Project Yield

Summary: Five comments directly addressed project yield. The main issues raised were the yield of the project, the quantity of "new" water available, and how often do the users receive this water.

Response: Ongoing evaluations of potential project operations will help determine project yield as well as how many users the investigation can support and at what level of water use. This in turn will help in determining the cost of water to the users. As the operational flexibility of the various alternatives is developed, the values for project yield will be determined. This will be fully discussed in the EIS/EIR.

Category 14: Geology and Seismicity

Summary: There were four comments about geology and seismicity in the study area. Comments focused on the need to study the impacts of reservoir-induced seismicity and the

results of an earthquake on the local area. In addition, one comment suggested that the costs of engineering a dam and facilities to withstand the probable maximum earthquake should be fully evaluated.

Response: Reclamation and DWR will examine the potential for reservoir induced earthquakes and address this issue in the Geology and Soils chapter of the EIS/EIR. In addition, the probable maximum earthquake will be analyzed and any structures related to the storage investigation would be designed to withstand that event.

Category 15: Recreational Opportunities

Summary: Four comments addressed issues about recreational opportunities. From a local perspective, recreational opportunities at a reservoir are desirable. The local people would like to be involved with the development of the recreational facilities. In addition to the fishing and boating activities that might normally occur on a reservoir, comments were made in support of hunting in general and waterfowl hunting in particular.

Response: Issues regarding the development of various recreational activities will be addressed in the Recreation chapter of the EIS/EIR.

Category 16: Power Use and Cost

Summary: Nineteen comments addressed issues related to power use and cost. The majority of these comments were concerned with the impacts to power costs and availability if water was pumped into a new reservoir. CVP preference customers expressed concern about the economic effects of integrating a new reservoir into the CVP infrastructure.

Response: Issues related to power use, beneficial uses and impacts, power sources, project costs, and cost-sharing will be addressed in the EIS/EIR.

Category 17: CALFED Linkage

Summary: Twenty-one comments addressed linkages to CALFED. These comments mentioned the need to describe fully the linkage to the CALFED PEIS/EIR and the relationship of this investigation to other CALFED programs such as Environmental Water Account, Ecosystem Restoration Program, Conjunctive Use and Water Use Efficiency. Also mentioned is the need to consider potential problems related to tiering from the CALFED PEIS/EIR because of on-going litigation.

Response: Reclamation and DWR's work on the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage Investigation is proceeding as a component of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. As committed to in the CALFED ROD, the NODOS EIS/EIR will use information from the CALFED PEIS/EIR to develop the NODOS EIS/EIR and to avoid duplicating efforts. Should litigation result in significant changes to the CALFED PEIS/EIR and ROD, additional work may be required on the NODOS EIS/EIR.

Category 18: Relationship to Other Water Projects

Summary: Fifteen comments were received addressing the relationship of this investigation to other existing and proposed water programs and projects in the State. Concern was expressed over the change in operation of the Trinity River, specifically that water from Trinity not be counted for use in the investigation. Another concern was expressed over water availability for this program versus an Auburn Dam or CVPIA or Phase 8.

Response: The EIS/EIR and supporting documents will clearly explain the need for the project, justification for the project, and the relationship of the project to other activities and programs in the State. These relationships will be evaluated in operational studies, in cumulative impact analyses, and in program alternatives.

Category 19: Flood/Emergency Reservoir Release Impacts

Summary: Two comments addressed flood control and emergency releases from a reservoir. The comments requested that the EIS/EIR quantify the impacts of the establishment of downstream flood flow capacity on downstream land use and development and the increase in the cost of the project associated with the relocation of structures and roads and levee construction.

Response: Reclamation and DWR are examining the impacts of flow releases on the downstream areas. Descriptions of emergency release channels meeting Division of Safety of Dams requirements will be included in the descriptions of dam alternatives in the EIS/EIR.

Category 20: Sites Reservoir Alternative

Summary: Sixteen comments were submitted that dealt with Sites Reservoir alternative specifically. Many of the comments expressed either general or specific support of Sites Reservoir. Several comments were submitted concerning road locations if Sites Reservoir were constructed and the effects of such relocations on access to remaining landowners and the local economy.

Response: Reclamation and DWR appreciate hearing from the various communities in Northern California and particularly the individuals who will be most affected by portions of some alternatives. Reclamation and DWR will make every effort to continue to keep you informed and involved in this process. Input on the locations of infrastructure to support a project remains important and will be sought as Reclamation and DWR develop the EIS/EIR.

Category 21: Request to be a Cooperating Agency

Summary: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) requested inclusion as a cooperating agency.

Response: Reclamation is working with BIA to include them as a cooperating agency.

Category 22: Indian Trust Assets

Summary: Tribes provided commentary concerning Indian Trust Assets at the January 23, 2002, Tribal Scoping Meeting pertaining to CALFED Surface Storage Projects. The tribes requested a government-to-government relationship evolve as indicated in the CALFED Record of Decision and as recognized by Department of Interior policies.

Tribes indicated concern about their water rights, current water supply and future availability/access to water. Tribes were concerned about the quantification of tribal water rights and the potential degradation of water quality and the depletion of tribal groundwater potentially related to the CALFED Surface Storage Projects.

Tribes wanted additional information about how and where CALFED Surface Storage Projects would operate, such as location of conveyance systems used, and how the projects would operate during dry years.

Tribes are very concerned about the kinds and types of mitigation that may be implemented if impacts to Indian Trust Assets (such as water) or Cultural Resources are discovered in the planning process. Tribes want to participate and contribute to discussions pertaining to alternatives and impacts regarding CALFED Surface Storage Projects.

Response: Reclamation and DWR are coordinating guidelines that would be adhered to when working with tribes on CALFED Surface Storage Projects. The U.S. must consult with tribes when a federal project potentially impacts the trust assets of tribe(s). The CALFED ROD also indicates that CALFED agencies, both state and federal, will consult with federally recognized tribes on a government-to-government basis.

Category 23: Cultural Resources

Summary: Tribes expressed concern about the impacts CALFED Surface Storage Projects (such as Sites and Shasta) would have on cultural resources, sacred sites, traditional properties and gathering areas, including the use and access to such sites where traditional cultural practices occur. Tribes are also concerned on how confidentiality will be maintained regarding information they provide to the United States regarding such cultural resources.

Response: In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act Reclamation will consult with tribes to determine if properties which may be of religious and cultural significance to them and may be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places are present within the area of potential effect. Federal laws allow for confidentiality of information concerning an undertaking and its effects on historic properties and can be used to protect the privacy of non-governmental participants (36 CFR 800.11(c)).

Category 24: Newville Reservoir Alternative

Summary: Twenty-four comments were submitted that were specific to the Newville Reservoir alternative. In general these comments were in opposition to the current Newville Reservoir formulation. Many local residents are concerned that the reservoir will have devastating impacts on the environment and wildlife and fish habitat and the proposed access roads will disrupt the diverse wildlife habitat and cattle. In addition, local residents are concerned that the reservoir will destroy the area's cultural and historical landmarks and resources.

Response: Reclamation and DWR will consider these comments during the alternatives screening process. The results of the screening process will be discussed at future public meetings.

Category 25: Issues Not Addressed in this Environmental Document

Summary: Two comments were identified as issues that will not be addressed in the EIS/EIR. The first comment dealt with costs associated with increased staff time to review environmental documents at a county level. The second comment mentioned the possibility of incentives to encourage local farmers to exchange their gas or diesel powered water pumps for electrical powered pumps in an effort to help reduce air pollution.

Response: It is understood that local governments will utilize resources in their review of environmental documents. This type of activity is part of the normal duty that county or city staff members perform and the costs associated with review of this type of investigation are not reimbursable by lead agencies under NEPA or CEQA.

This investigation deals with water supplies and water use. Incentives for changing the types of pumps used to move water are outside the scope of this investigation and will not be examined under NODOS. There are other programs being implemented by Air Quality Management Districts and Environmental Protection Agency to compare different types of mechanical equipment in order to improve air quality.

Appendix A: Notice of Intent

The following text was copied from the Federal Register Website, where the Notice of Intent was published.

Website:

http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-IMPACT/2001/November/Day-09/i28138.htm

North of the Delta Offstream Storage, California

[Federal Register: November 9, 2001 (Volume 66, Number 218)]

[Notices]

[Page 56708-56709]

From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]

[DOCID:fr09no01-101]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

North of the Delta Offstream Storage, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact report/environmental impact statement (EIR/EIS).

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) intends to participate with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in the North of the Delta Offstream Storage (NDOS). Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (as amended), and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Reclamation and DWR propose to prepare a joint (EIR/EIS) for the NDOS. NDOS will evaluate potential surface storage north of the Delta in the Sacramento Valley watershed. The CALFED Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Report (PEIS/PEIR) and Record of Decision (ROD) identified the NDOS. Reclamation will use the results of this environmental analysis and other studies to seek Congressional authority as necessary for implementation of the preferred alternative.

DATES: Reclamation and DWR will hold three scoping meetings to seek public input on alternatives, concerns, and issues to be addressed in the EIR/EIS. The dates are:

January 8, 2002, 1 to 4 p.m, Sacramento, California

January 9, 2002, 6 to 9 p.m., Maxwell, California

January 15, 2002, 6 to 9 p.m., Fresno, California

Written comments on the scope of alternatives and impacts to be considered should be sent to DWR at the address below by Friday, January 25, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Meeting locations are:

Sacramento at the Bonderson Building Hearing Room, 901 P Street

Maxwell at the Maxwell Inn, 81 Oak Street

Fresno at the Piccadilly Inn--University, 4961 N. Cedar

Written comments on the scope of the EIR/EIS should be sent to Scott D. Woodland, P.E., Department of Water Resources, Division of Planning and Local Assistance, PO Box 942836, Sacramento, CA 94236, or faxed to (916) 651-9289.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Woodland at (916) 651-9278, or email at woodland@water.ca.gov; or Donna Garcia, Bureau of Reclamation, Division of Planning, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA, telephone: (916) 978-5009.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Sacramento Valley Resources

Roughly three-quarters of California's runoff occurs north of Sacramento, while about three-quarters of California's water is used south of Sacramento. This imbalance in the location of water supply and demand has continually placed pressure on the Sacramento Valley watersheds. In recent years, demand for water supply has grown, not only due to increased population but also due to efforts to protect California's water quality and its ecological resources. To better manage Sacramento Valley water resources, the water supply system requires new infrastructure, regulatory stability, and increased system flexibility.

CALFED

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program (CALFED) is a cooperative, interagency effort of 23 State and Federal agencies established to develop and implement a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system and its tributary watersheds. These watersheds include the Sacramento Valley and watersheds located south of the Delta that use water from the Sacramento Valley in addition to local water supplies.

The CALFED agencies completed the PEIS/PEIR process in July 2000 and filed the ROD in August 2000. The PEIS/PEIR concluded a process of broad environmental analysis that evaluated a wide range of concepts. The ROD sets forth the Preferred Program Alternative and the strategy for implementation of that alternative. The descriptions of the alternatives are programmatic in nature, defining broad approaches to meet Program purposes. The Preferred Program Alternative includes eight program elements: Levee System Integrity, Water Quality, Ecosystem Restoration, Water Use Efficiency, Water Transfer, Watershed, Conveyance, and Storage. The ROD states: “Expanding water storage capacity is critical to the successful implementation of all aspects of the CALFED Program. Not only is additional storage needed to meet the needs of a growing population but, if strategically located, it will provide much needed flexibility in the system to improve water quality and support fish and wildlife restoration efforts. Water supply reliability depends upon capturing water during peak flows and during wet years, as well as more efficient water use through conservation and recycling.”(ROD, page 42).

Associated Programs

In addition to the CALFED Stage 1 actions to expand surface and groundwater storage, there are several Northern Sacramento Valley programs under way that are expected to contribute to water supply reliability or habitat restoration. Development and evaluation of alternatives for augmenting storage and system flexibility in the northern Sacramento Valley will consider the potential outcomes and information from the CALFED Integrated Storage Investigations' Groundwater/Conjunctive Use program and Onstream Storage Enlargement (Enlarged Shasta) investigation and from other Sacramento Valley water management programs. Some of the larger programs include:

Sacramento Valley Agreement (Phase 8 Bay-Delta Settlement Agreement)

Sacramento Valley Basinwide Management Plan

CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program Sacramento River Conservation Area (SB 1086)

Sacramento/San Joaquin River Comprehensive Study

North of the Delta Offstream Storage

The CALFED ROD specified two actions to be completed before deciding whether to proceed with offstream storage north of the Bay-Delta. The first was to create a partnership with local water interests and the second was to complete environmental review and planning documentation for a reservoir with a capacity of up to 1.9 MAF by August 2004. DWR and Reclamation have completed the first of these directives and are working on the second. In order to comply with all environmental laws, DWR and Reclamation will examine a broad range of alternatives in an open and inclusive process. The investigation will analyze alternatives in terms of how well they meet the objectives described below and their beneficial and adverse impacts.

Objectives

The ROD gives direction on objectives for north of the Delta offstream storage:

Enhance water management flexibility in the Sacramento Valley.

Reduce water diversion on the Sacramento River during critical fish migration periods.

Increase reliability of supplies for a portion of the Sacramento Valley.

Provide storage and operational benefits for other CALFED programs including Delta water quality and the EWA.

Possible Alternatives

Since this EIR/EIS will be a tiered document from the CALFED PEIS/PEIR, the scope of alternatives will be limited to issues directly associated with water storage located north of the Delta. The following possible alternatives for the NDOS have been identified, and will be included in the alternative analysis along with other alternatives developed during the scoping process. The alternatives evaluated in the EIR/EIS will include consideration of CALFED Stage 1 actions as defined in the ROD:

1. No Project (Present Condition)

This alternative would be defined as present conditions when the Notice of Preparation and Notice of Intent are filed, and without a north of the Delta offstream storage project. Neither the potential environmental benefits nor adverse effects would occur.

2. No Action (Future Condition)

The No Action Alternative is a description of the anticipated physical, project operation, and regulatory features that would be in place in 2020 without a north of the Delta offstream storage project. The No Action Alternative is used as a basis for comparison of the project alternatives in 2020.

3. Sites Reservoir Alternative

This alternative would consist of an offstream reservoir with a capacity of up to 1.9 million acre-feet in size and would be located approximately 10 miles west of Maxwell. The reservoir would inundate the community of Sites and most of Antelope Valley. The main dams would be constructed on Funks Creek and on Stone Corral Creek. Up to nine saddle dams would be needed. This alternative will be evaluated with different levels of conjunctive use.

Source and conveyance options for this reservoir include:

a. The use of the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Diversion and Canal, either in its current capacity or in an enlarged capacity.

b. The use of the Tehama-Colusa diversion and canal in its current capacity or in an enlarged capacity.

c. A new diversion and conveyance facility from the Sacramento River near Moulton Weir.

d. A new conveyance facility from the Colusa Basin Drain.

Diversions and conveyance tunnels from East Park Reservoir and/or Stony Gorge Reservoir.

e. A combination of these options.

New or existing delivery facilities from the reservoir would be required, depending on the beneficial uses served.

4. Newville Reservoir Alternative

This alternative would consist of an offstream reservoir with a capacity between 1.9 million and 3.0 million acre-feet in size and would be located approximately 18 miles west of the City of Orland. A single earth embankment dam on North Fork Stony Creek along with various saddle dams would create the impoundment area. Since North Fork Stony Creek is a very small drainage area, diversion and conveyance facilities would be needed. This alternative will be evaluated with different levels of conjunctive use. The following options are being considered.

a. Stony Creek Diversion which would move water from Black Butte Lake to the Reservoir by canal via a new, smaller reservoir, Tehenn Reservoir. Tehenn Reservoir would serve as a forebay/afterbay to the Newville Reservoir.

b. A direct canal from Black Butte Reservoir to Newville to avoid an historical cemetery.

c. A diversion from nearby Thomes Creek which has an annual runoff of approximately 200,000 acre-feet. This diversion would require a small dam and a pipeline over a ridge that separates the creek from Newville Reservoir.

d. Diversion and conveyance facility from the Sacramento River.

e. A combination of the above options.

New or existing delivery facilities from the reservoir would be required, depending on the beneficial uses served.

5. Other Possible Alternatives

As stated earlier, storage projects are not to be developed in isolation but rather as part of an overall water management strategy. Thus, this EIR/EIS will evaluate whether other possible alternatives meet the NDOS objectives. Two possible alternatives include the conjunctive use and enlarged Shasta programs mentioned in the above Associated Programs section. These could be evaluated as stand-alone alternatives or as sub-alternatives operated in conjunction with north of the Delta offstream storage to optimize system flexibility and efficiency.

These and other possible alternatives will be considered and developed through comments received during the scoping process. During scoping, DWR and Reclamation will be seeking input about possible methods for evaluating conjunctive water management that will meet CALFED criteria for local management of conjunctive use projects.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from public disclosure, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent's identity from public

disclosure, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Dated: October 26, 2001.

Frank Michny,

Regional Environmental Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-28138 Filed 11-8-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MN-P

Appendix B: Notice of Preparation

Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report/Statement

Department of Water Resources
North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage Investigation

Introduction

The Department of Water Resources (DWR), as the State lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) as the federal lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will prepare an Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for the development of offstream water storage north of the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta.

The purpose of this notice is to notify the public and agencies that may be involved in approvals or review of the project of the intent to prepare the environmental documentation. DWR and Reclamation are seeking comments on:

- The definition of future conditions without Offstream Storage (No Project/Action Alternative)
- Alternatives to be considered
- Focus of Impact Assessment with respect to potential benefits or impacts
- Issues to be considered in the Cumulative Impact Assessment

The scoping and comment period will conclude on Friday, January 25, 2002. Written comments should be directed to:

Scott D. Woodland P.E.
Senior Engineer W.R.
Department of Water Resources
Division of Planning and Local Assistance
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
Fax: (916) 651-9289

Questions regarding this Notice of Preparation should be directed to Scott Woodland at (916) 651-9278 or emailed to woodland@water.ca.gov.

DWR will also accept written and oral comments on the scope and content of the EIR/S at scoping meetings that will be held as follows:

Tuesday, January 8, 2002 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Bonderson Building Hearing Room 901 P Street Sacramento, California	Wednesday, January 9, 2002 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Maxwell Inn 81 Oak Street Maxwell, California	Tuesday, January 15, 2002 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Piccadilly Inn – University 4961 N. Cedar Fresno, California

At the conclusion of the scoping process, a report will be prepared that will summarize the comments and alternatives to be carried forward. DWR and Reclamation will then begin

the work of preparing the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) alternatives analysis as well as the EIR/S.

Background

Sacramento Valley Resources

Roughly three-quarters of California's runoff occurs north of Sacramento, while about the same proportion of urban and agricultural water demand is south of Sacramento. This statewide imbalance in water supply and demand has continually placed pressure on the Sacramento Valley watershed. In addition to providing water for uses south of the region, the Sacramento River and its tributaries also provide water supply within the region for about 2.5 million people and associated industries; irrigation of over 2 million acres of farmland producing rice, grain, fruits, nuts and vegetables; flooding of almost 200,000 acres of permanent and seasonal marsh and agricultural land that serves as waterfowl habitat; and flows to support riverine habitat. The water uses within the region are expected to increase, driven primarily by a projected 2020 population of almost 4 million. Demand for water south of the region will increase similarly due to population growth.

The Sacramento River supports a diverse, complex ecosystem, the largest and most important riverine ecosystem in California. The river is the largest element of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta watershed, providing about 80 percent of the inflow to the Delta. Several water development and flood control projects have altered the river's natural flow regime, sediment transport capabilities, and riparian and riverine habitats. A number of species that depend on the riverine ecosystem have been designated as threatened or endangered, including chinook salmon and splittail. Ecosystem and water management priorities associated with the Sacramento River present formidable challenges.

In addition to these challenges, the threat of drought is an ever-present factor in California water management and planning, and the duration of a drought can be difficult to forecast. Droughts in California have run as short as the record-setting dry period from February through June 1997 and as long as the 1987-92 drought. Added to this uncertainty are regulatory decisions to protect water quality and fisheries. Decisions such as the State Water Resources Control Board Order 95-6 adopting an interim water quality control plan for the Bay-Delta, and actions to implement the Central Valley Project Improvement Act have changed water allocations significantly. An improved level of water management is necessary to meet and balance the many competing water needs.

Currently, management of the Sacramento River system between Keswick and the Delta is determined by a combination of hydrology, water use, water resources infrastructure, and local, State, and Federal regulatory and resource agency operational decisions. North-of-the-Delta offstream storage would provide the additional system flexibility needed for balancing ecosystem, environmental, agricultural and municipal and industrial water uses.

CALFED

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a cooperative, interagency effort of more than 20 State and Federal agencies established to develop and implement a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta system and its tributary watersheds. To practicably achieve its program purpose, CALFED agencies will concurrently and comprehensively address problems of the Bay-Delta system within each of four resource categories: ecosystem quality, water quality, water supply reliability, and Delta levee system integrity. Important physical, ecological, and socioeconomic linkages exist between the problems and possible solutions in each of these categories.

The Bay-Delta Program objectives are to provide good water quality for all beneficial uses; improve habitat and ecological function; reduce the mismatch between water supplies and

projected beneficial uses of Bay-Delta water supplies; and reduce risk to land use and economic activities, water supply, infrastructure, and the ecosystem from catastrophic breaching of Delta levees. In July 2000, CALFED agencies completed the Programmatic EIS/R process and filed a Record of Decision (ROD) in August 2000. The Programmatic EIS/R process evaluated a wide range of alternatives. The ROD set forth the Preferred Program Alternative and the strategy for implementing that alternative. The Preferred Program Alternative includes eight program elements: Levee System Integrity, Water Quality, Ecosystem Restoration, Water Use Efficiency, Water Transfer, Watershed, Conveyance, and Storage. Site-specific projects dealing with these elements will be implemented in an integrated and balanced manner.

The storage element of the preferred alternative includes a finding that not only is additional storage needed to meet the needs of a growing population but also, if strategically located, it will provide much-needed flexibility in the system to improve water quality and support fish restoration efforts. Water supply reliability depends on capturing water during peak flows and during wet years, as well as more efficient water use through conservation and recycling. Additionally, groundwater and surface water storage can be used to improve water supply reliability, provide water for the environment at times when it is needed most, provide flows timed to maintain water quality, and protect Delta levees through coordinated operation with existing flood control reservoirs.

The Bay-Delta Program identified actions that will be pursued in Stage 1 to expand storage capacity at existing reservoirs and strategically located offstream sites and to implement a major expansion of more environmentally sensitive groundwater storage. CALFED agencies are committed to increasing storage through the development of acceptable projects. In an October 9, 2001 letter to the Legislature, Governor Davis renewed his commitment to develop reliable and affordable water for California through pursuit of infrastructure projects, including North-of-the-Delta offstream storage. Storage projects are not developed in isolation but rather as part of an overall water management strategy. As such, storage combined with other program actions such as conservation, transfers and habitat restoration will contribute to and be compatible with the water supply reliability, water quality and ecosystem restoration program objectives.

Associated Programs

In addition to the CALFED Stage 1 actions to expand surface and groundwater storage, there are several Northern Sacramento Valley programs under way that are expected to contribute to water supply reliability or habitat restoration. Development and evaluation of alternatives for augmenting storage and system flexibility in the northern Sacramento Valley will consider the potential outcomes and information from the CALFED Integrated Storage Investigations' Groundwater/Conjunctive Use program and Onstream Storage Enlargement (Enlarged Shasta) investigation and from other Sacramento Valley water management programs. Some of the larger programs include:

- Sacramento Valley Water Management Agreement (Phase 8 Bay-Delta Settlement Agreement)
- Sacramento Valley Basinwide Management Plan
- CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program
- Sacramento River Conservation Area (SB 1086)
- Sacramento / San Joaquin River Comprehensive Study

North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage

The CALFED ROD specified two actions to be completed before deciding whether to proceed with an offstream storage project north of the Bay-Delta. The first was to create a

partnership with local water interests and the second was to complete environmental review and planning documentation for a reservoir with a capacity of up to 1.9 MAF by August 2004. DWR and Reclamation have completed the first of these directives and are working on the second. In order to comply with all environmental laws (CEQA, NEPA, the Clean Water Act, etc.), DWR and Reclamation will examine a broad range of alternatives in an open, transparent and inclusive process. The investigation will analyze alternatives in terms of how well they meet the objectives described below and their beneficial and adverse impacts.

Memorandum of Understanding

The directive to create a partnership with local water interests was completed at the end of 2000. The partnership Memorandum of Understanding remains an open document and has been signed by the following entities:

Federal Partners

- United States Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- Western Area Power Administration

State Partners

- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Water Resources

Local Partners

- Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
- Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
- Orland Unit Water User's Association
- County of Colusa
- Sutter Mutual Water Company
- Reclamation District No. 108
- Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District
- Provident Irrigation District
- Natomas Mutual Water Company
- Maxwell Irrigation District
- Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Project Objectives

The ROD gives direction on objectives for North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage:

- Enhance water management flexibility in the Sacramento Valley.
- Reduce water diversion on the Sacramento River during critical fish migration periods.

- Increase reliability of supplies for a significant portion of the Sacramento Valley.

- Provide storage and operational benefits for other CALFED programs including Delta water quality and the Environmental Water Account.

Pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, the EIR/S for North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage Investigation will consider a reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives that will support these objectives and foster informed decision making and public participation.

Preparing a Tiered EIR/S based on the CALFED Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

The process that produced the CALFED Final Programmatic EIS/EIR looked at a broad range of solutions to issues facing the Delta and identified a Preferred Program Alternative. The description is programmatic in nature, intended to help agencies and the public make decisions on the broad methods to meet program purposes. Actions described in the Preferred Program Alternative are intended to take place in an integrated framework and not independently of one another. All aspects of the CALFED Program are interrelated and interdependent. Ecosystem restoration depends on water supply; water supply depends on water use efficiency and consistency in regulation; water quality depends on improved conveyance, Delta levee stability and healthy watersheds; the success of all these elements depends on expanded and more strategically managed storage.

The Preferred Program Alternative is not intended to define the site-specific actions that will ultimately be implemented. For actions contained within the Preferred Program Alternative that are undertaken by a CALFED Agency or funded with money designated for meeting CALFED purposes, environmental review will tier from the PEIS/PEIR. The tiering presumes the balanced implementation of all elements of the Preferred Program Alternative.

Whenever a broad environmental impact analysis has been prepared and a subsequent narrower analysis is then prepared on an action included within the entire program or policy, the subsequent analysis need only summarize the issues discussed in the broader analysis and incorporate discussions from the broader analysis by reference; this is known as tiering. Tiered documents focus on issues specific to the subsequent action and rely on the analysis of issues already decided in the broader programmatic review. Absent new information or substantially changed circumstances, documents tiering from the CALFED PEIS/PEIR will not revisit the alternatives that were considered alongside CALFED's Preferred Program Alternative nor will they revisit alternatives that were rejected during CALFED's alternative development process.

Since this EIR/S will be tiered from the CALFED Programmatic EIS/EIR, the scope of alternatives will be limited to issues directly associated with water storage located north of the Delta.

Project Location

DWR proposes to evaluate offstream storage in the northern Sacramento Valley.

Possible Project Alternatives

The following possible alternatives for this program have been identified and will be included in the alternative analysis along with other alternatives developed during the scoping process. The alternatives evaluated in the EIR/S will include consideration of CALFED Stage 1 actions as defined in the ROD.

- *No Project (Present Condition)*

  This alternative would be defined as present conditions when the Notice of Preparation/Notice of Intent is filed, without North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage.

- *No Action (Future Condition)*

  The No Action Alternative is a description of the anticipated physical, project operation, and regulatory features that would be in place in 2020 without North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage

- *Sites Reservoir Alternative*

  This alternative would develop an offstream reservoir with a capacity of up to 1.9 million acre-feet in size approximately 10 miles west of Maxwell. The reservoir would inundate the community of Sites and most of Antelope Valley. The main dams would be constructed on Funks Creek and on Stone Corral Creek. Up to nine saddle dams would be needed. A sub-alternative will be considered that integrates and expands conjunctive use with operation of a Sites Reservoir. This sub-alternative would operate the offstream storage reservoir to optimize conjunctive use operations in the Sacramento Valley.

  Source and conveyance options for this reservoir include:

  1. The use of the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Diversion and Canal, either in its current capacity or in an enlarged capacity.

  2. The use of the Tehama-Colusa Diversion and Canal in its current capacity or enlarged.

  3. A new diversion and conveyance facility from the Sacramento River near Moulton Weir.

  4. A new diversion and conveyance facility from the Colusa Basin Drain.

  5. Diversion and conveyance from East Park Reservoir and/or Stony Gorge Reservoir.

  6. A combination of these options.

  New or existing delivery facilities from the reservoir may be used, depending on the beneficial uses served.

- *Newville Reservoir Alternative*

  This alternative would develop an offstream reservoir with capacity between 1.9 and 3.0 million acre-feet approximately 18 miles west of the City of Orland. A single earth embankment dam on North Fork Stony Creek along with various saddle dams would create the impoundment area. A sub-alternative will be considered that integrates and expands conjunctive use with operation of a Newville Reservoir. Since North Fork Stony Creek is a relatively small drainage area, diversion and conveyance facilities would be needed. The following options are being considered.

  1. Stony Creek Diversion which would move water from Black Butte Lake to the Reservoir by canal via a proposed Tehenn Reservoir. Tehenn Reservoir would serve as a forebay/afterbay to the Newville Reservoir.

  2. A direct canal from Black Butte Reservoir to Newville to avoid an historical cemetery.

  3. A diversion from nearby Thomes Creek which has an annual runoff of approximately 200 TAF. This diversion would require a small dam and a pipeline over a ridge that separates the creek from Newville Reservoir.

  4. Diversion and conveyance facility from the Sacramento River.

  5. A combination of the above options.

New or existing delivery facilities from the reservoir may be used, depending on the beneficial uses served.

- *Other Possible Alternatives*

  As stated earlier, storage projects are not to be developed in isolation but rather as part of an overall water management strategy. Thus, this EIR/S will evaluate whether other possible alternatives meet North of Delta Offstream Storage objectives. Two possible alternatives include the conjunctive use and enlarged Shasta programs mentioned above in the *Associated Programs* section. These could be evaluated as stand-alone alternatives or as sub-alternatives operated in conjunction with North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage to optimize system flexibility and efficiency.

  These and other possible alternatives will be considered and developed through comments received during the Scoping Process. During scoping, DWR and USBR will be seeking input about possible methods for evaluating conjunctive water management that will meet CALFED criteria for local management of conjunctive use projects.

Potential Environmental Effects

DWR began the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage Investigation in late 1997 as a two-year reconnaissance-level study authorized by Proposition 204, the Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Act, approved by voters in 1996. In 1999, CALFED consolidated all storage investigations under a comprehensive program called the Integrated Storage Investigations. The North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage Investigation was incorporated into one of seven ISI program elements and continues engineering, economic, and environmental impact analyses.

Initial evaluation and scoping have identified potential environmental impacts related to facilities associated with the proposed project alternatives. The EIR/S will specifically identify the benefits and impacts and determine the significance of these impacts as well as other potential environmental effects identified during public scoping. Where impacts cannot be avoided by redesign or reformulation the EIR/S will identify potential avoidance measures and mitigation projects designed to reduce significant project related impacts to less than significant levels, wherever possible.

Table of Potential Impacts

	Facilities			
Environmental Effect	Surface Storage	Diversions	Conveyance	Groundwater Storage
Land Use Planning	✓	✓	✓	✓
Geology and Soils	✓	✓	✓	✓
Geomorphology	✓	✓	✓	✓
Air Quality	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hydrology and Water Quality	✓	✓	✓	✓
Transportation and Traffic	✓	✓	✓	
Biological Resources	✓	✓	✓	✓
Energy and Mineral Resources	✓	✓	✓	✓
Noise	✓	✓	✓	✓
Utilities and Service Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓
Aesthetics	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cultural Resources	✓	✓	✓	✓
Indian Trust Assets	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recreation	✓	✓	✓	
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	✓	✓	✓	✓
Public Service	✓	✓	✓	✓
Environmental Justice	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mandatory Findings of Significance	✓	✓	✓	✓

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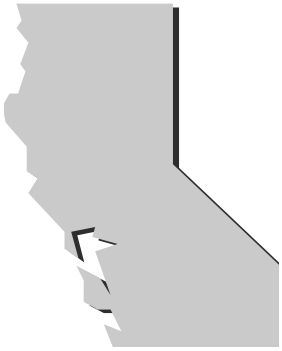
Appendix C: Meeting Announcement Mailed to Landowners

North of Delta Offstream Storage

Scoping Meetings

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in cooperation with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) will be holding public scoping meetings at three locations in January 2002.



The purpose of these meetings is to help DWR and Reclamation determine the scope of issues to be addressed and identify the significant issues related to this proposed action. Specific issues DWR and Reclamation are seeking comments on include:

- The definition of future conditions without Offstream Storage (No Project/Action Alternative).
- Alternatives to be considered.
- Focus of Impact Assessment with respect to potential benefits or impacts.
- Issues to be considered in the Cumulative Impact Assessment.
- Other issues identified by agencies and the public at the scoping meetings.

DWR and Reclamation will accept written and oral comments on the scope and content of the Environmental Impact Report/Statement at scoping meetings that will be held as follows:

Tuesday, January 8, 2002
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Bonderson Building Hearing Room
901 P Street
Sacramento, California

Wednesday, January 9, 2002
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Maxwell Inn
81 Oak Street
Maxwell, California

Tuesday, January 15, 2002
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Piccadilly Inn – University
4961 N. Cedar
Fresno, California

Additional information can be obtained from Department of Water Resources:
Scott D. Woodland (916) 651-9278 or
Glen Pearson (530) 528-7406

Written comments will be accepted by DWR until January 25, 2002. Send your comments to
Scott D. Woodland P.E.
Senior Engineer W.R.
Department of Water Resources
Division of Planning and Local Assistance
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Appendix D: Sample of Newspaper Ads for Public Meetings

Ads for public meetings were placed in the following newspapers:

- Chico Enterprise
- Fresno Bee
- Sacramento Bee
- Tri-County Newspapers in Willows

Sample ad:

NO 210 PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Meetings for North of Delta Offstream Storage (NODOS)

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), the NODOS State and Federal lead agencies, will be holding public scoping meetings at three locations in January 2002. These meetings are being held to comply with requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (CEQ NEPA Regulations Sec. 1501.7) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA Guidelines Section 15083).

The purpose of these meetings is to help the lead agencies preparing an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact State ment determine the scope of issues to be addressed and identify the significant issues related to this proposed action. Specific issues DWR and Reclamation are seeking comments on include:

- The definition of future conditions without Offstream Storage (No Project/Action Alternative)
- Alternatives to be considered
- Focus of Impact Assessment with respect to potential benefits or impacts
- Issues to be considered in the Cumulative Impact Assessment
- Other issues identified by agencies and the public at the scoping meetings

DWR will accept written and oral comments on the scope and content of the EIR/S at scoping meetings that will be held as follows:

Tuesday, January 8, 2002
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Bonderson Building Hearing Room
901 P Street
Sacramento, California

Wednesday, January 9, 2002
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Maxwell Inn
81 Oak Street
Maxwell, California

Tuesday, January 15, 2002
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Piccadilly Inn - University
4961 N. Cedar
Fresno, California

Additional information can be obtained from, and additional written comments may be sent to:
Scott D. Woodland P.E.
Senior Engineer W.R.

Department of Water Resources
Division of Planning and Local Assistance
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
Fax: (916) 651-9289
Email: woodland@water.ca.gov

The scoping and comment period will conclude on Friday, January 25, 2002.

5x January 4, 6, 7, 11, 13, 2001

Appendix E: Scoping Meeting Presentation

North of the Delta Offstream Storage

Outline

- Region and River
- CALFED
- North of the Delta Offstream Storage
- Planning Partnership
- Environmental Documentation
- Public Participation

Sacramento River Region Water Resources

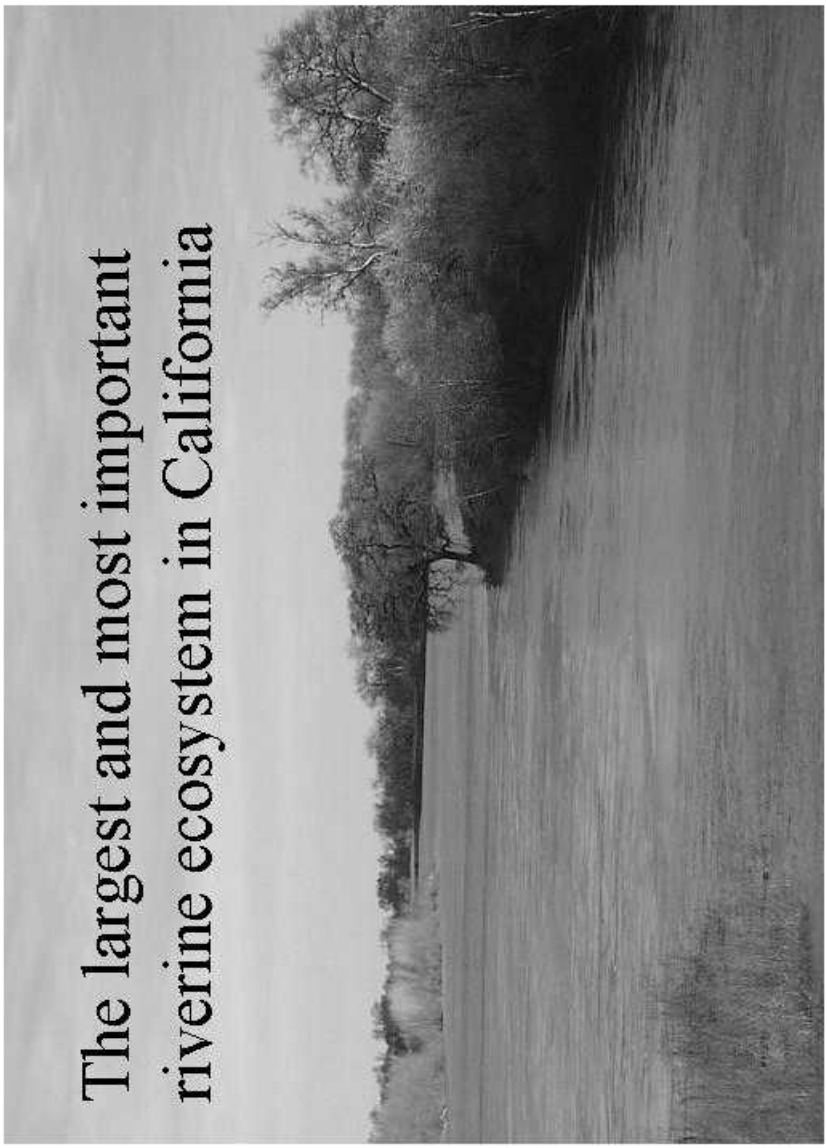
- 2.5 million people and associated industries
- Over 2 million acres of farmland
- 200,000 acres of marsh and agricultural land for waterfowl, supporting 60% of the total duck and goose population in the Pacific Flyway
- Flows for riverine habitat

Total water needs projected to increase

Sacramento River Region

Sacramento River

The largest and most important riverine ecosystem in California



Sacramento River Water Management Challenges

- Water users subject to shortages
- Threatened/endangered species
- Sacramento River provides 80% of the Delta inflow, supporting
  - The Delta ecosystem
  - Delta diversions

Sacramento River Water Management Challenges (cont'd)

- Operation and management of the system becoming increasingly inflexible due to increased
  - Water use within region
  - Delta diversions and exports
  - Recognition of environmental needs

CALFED Program

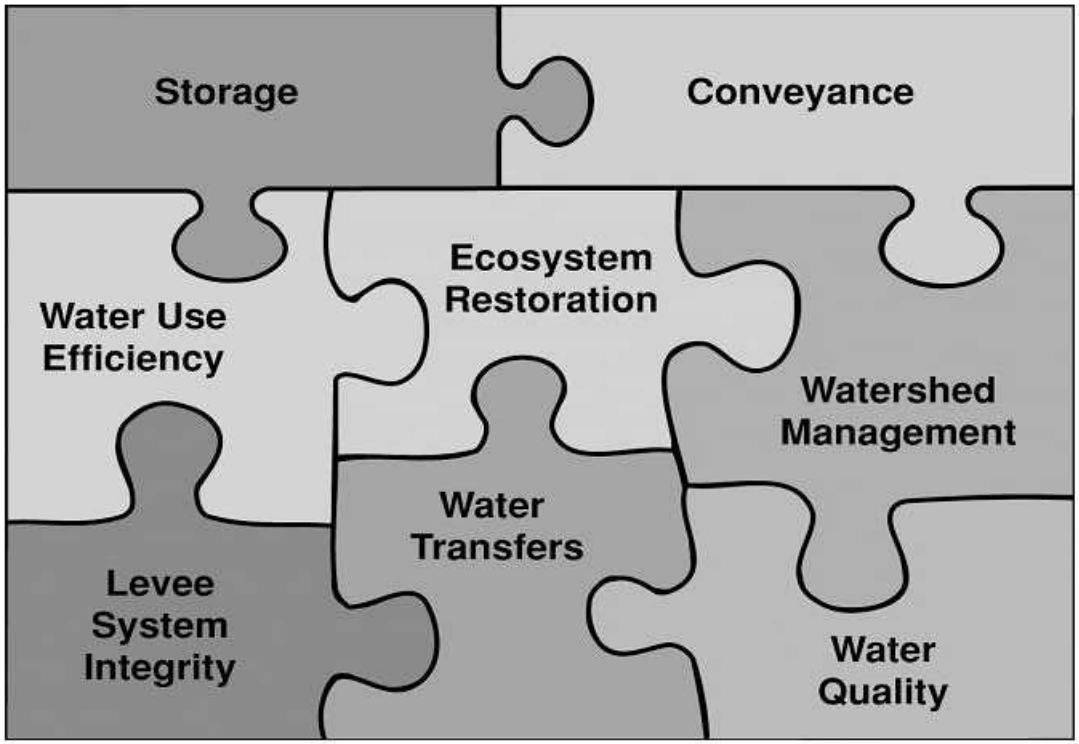
- Cooperative: May 1995, CALFED began to develop a long-term comprehensive plan to restore ecological health and improve water management of the Bay-Delta system
- Collaborative: agricultural, urban, environmental, tribal, and local interests
- Coordination: emphasis on local leadership and regional solutions

CALFED Program (cont'd)

- In Summer 2000, CALFED published a programmatic EIS/EIR and a Record of Decision with an action-specific long-term plan
- CALFED solution area covers six regions, including the Sacramento River Region

CALFED Objectives

CALFED Solution



CALFED Storage Element

Storage can be used to help achieve CALFED objectives

- Storage is critical to successful implementation of all aspects of the CALFED Program

- Storage provides much needed system flexibility

CALFED and Surface Storage

- ROD identified Sites Reservoir as 1 of 5 surface storage projects statewide for continued evaluation

- North of the Delta Offstream Storage will evaluate Sites Reservoir and alternatives

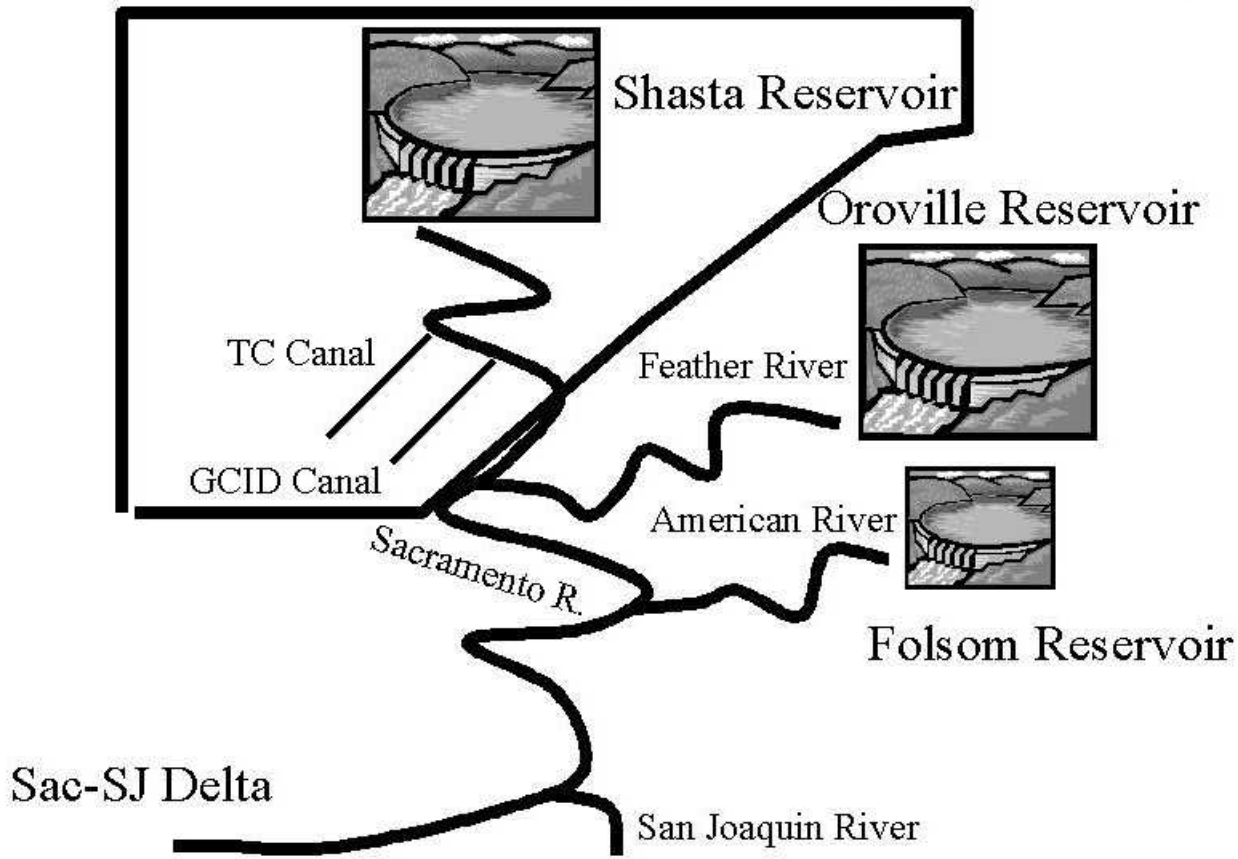
North of the Delta Associated Programs

- Sacramento Valley Water Management Agreement (Phase 8 Bay-Delta Settlement Agreement)
- Sacramento Valley Basinwide Management Plan
- CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program
- Sacramento River Conservation Area (SB 1086)
- Sacramento/San Joaquin R. Basins Comprehensive Study
- Other CALFED Stage 1 Surface and Groundwater Storage actions

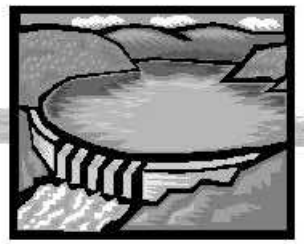
ROD North of the Delta Offstream Storage Objectives

- Enhance water management flexibility in the Sacramento Valley
- Reduce water diversion on the Sacramento River during critical fish migration periods
- Increase reliability of supplies for a significant portion of the Sacramento Valley
- Provide storage and operational benefits for other CALFED programs including Delta water quality and the Environmental Water Account

Existing System North of the Delta



Current operation without offstream storage - Winter



Shasta Reservoir

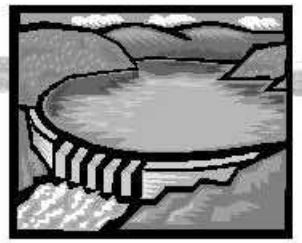
Limited diversions into canals

Sacramento River

TC Canal

GCID Canal

Current operation without offstream storage - Summer



Shasta Reservoir

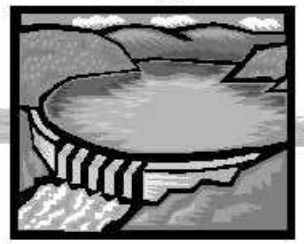
Greater diversions into canals

Sacramento River

TC Canal

GCID Canal

Operation with offstream storage - Winter



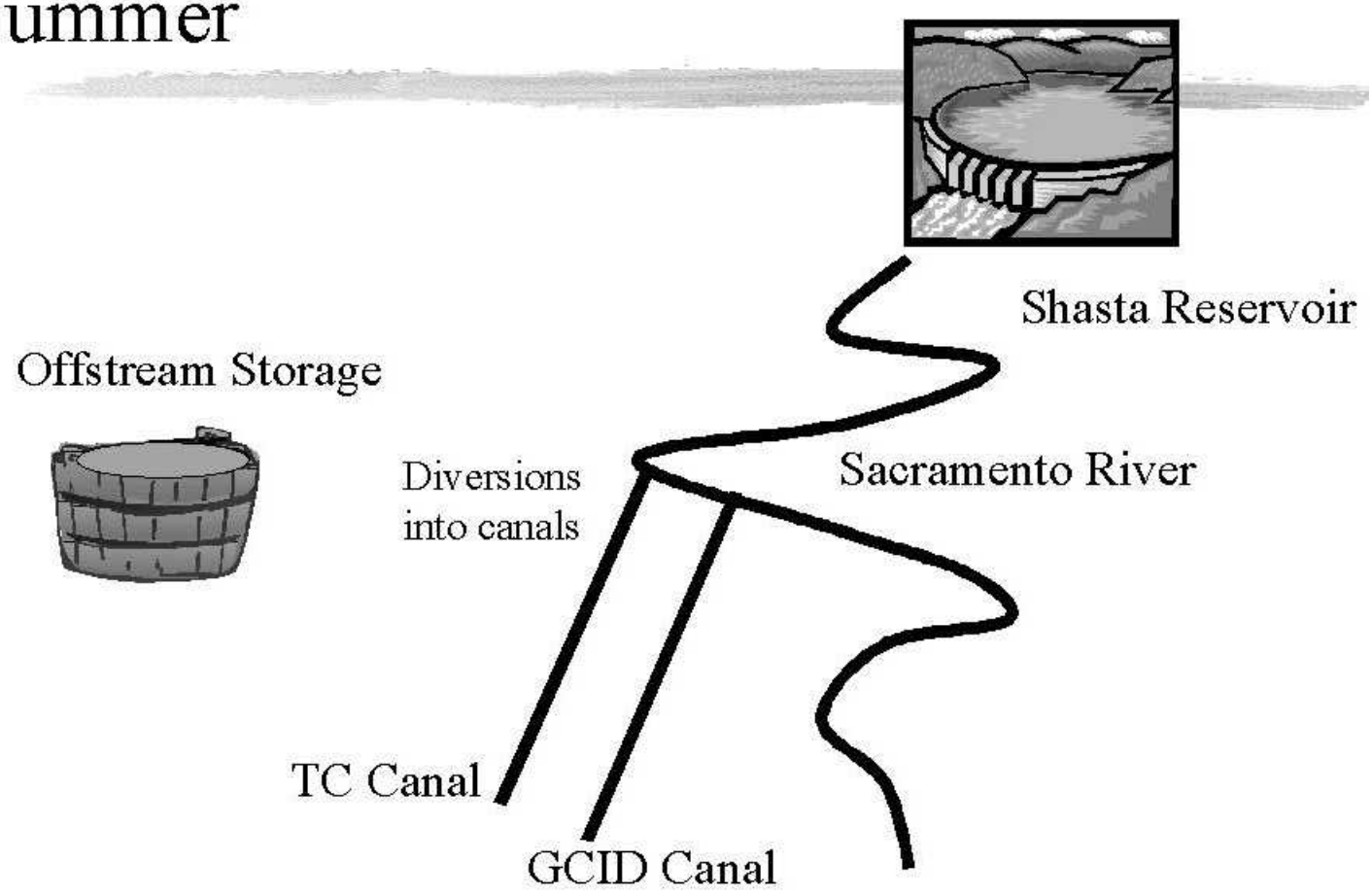
Shasta Reservoir

Diversions from Sacramento River or tributaries

Sacramento River

Offstream Storage

Operation with offstream storage - Summer



Increase Water Supply Reliability & Reduce diversions - Summer

Provide reliable water supply and reduce diversions during critical fish migration periods

Shasta Reservoir

Offstream Storage

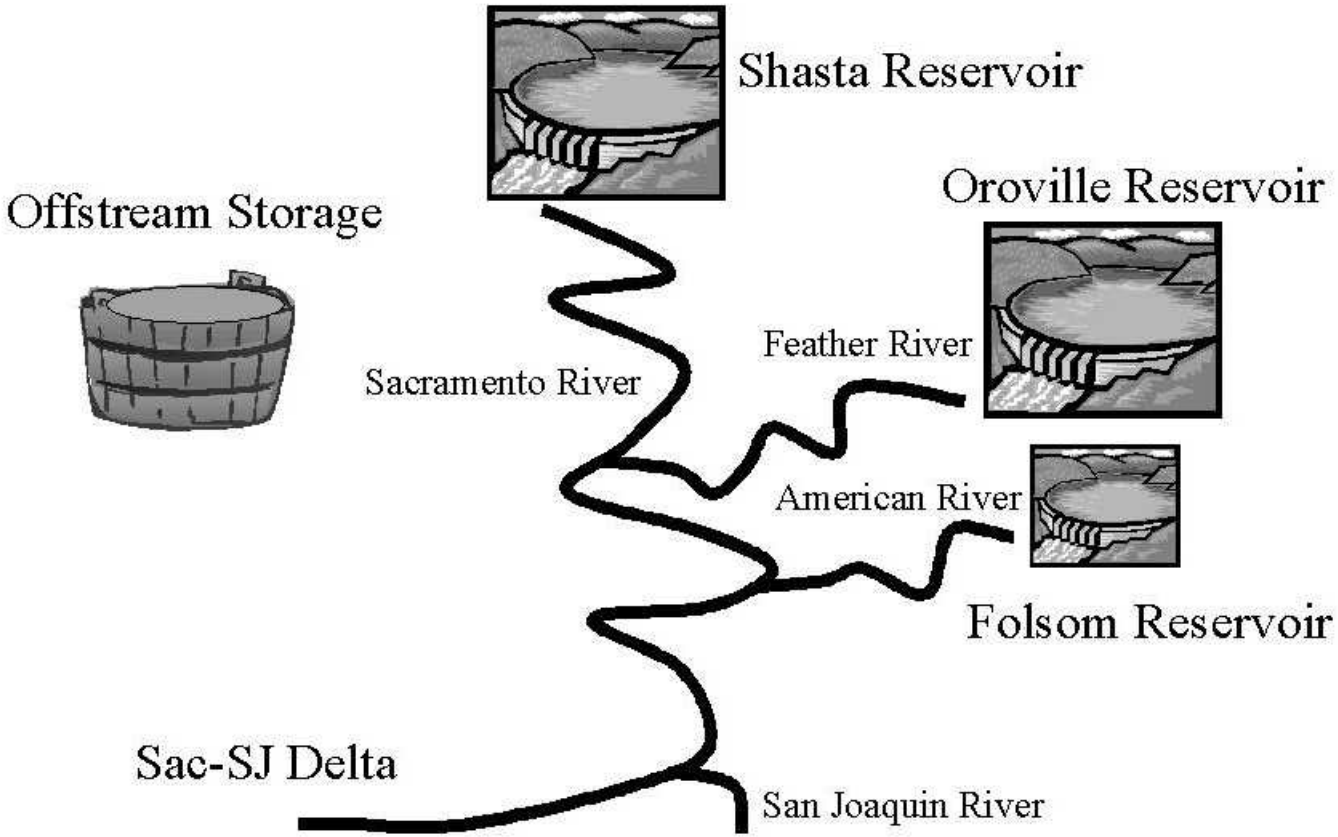
Sacramento River

Partial water supply to canals from offstream storage

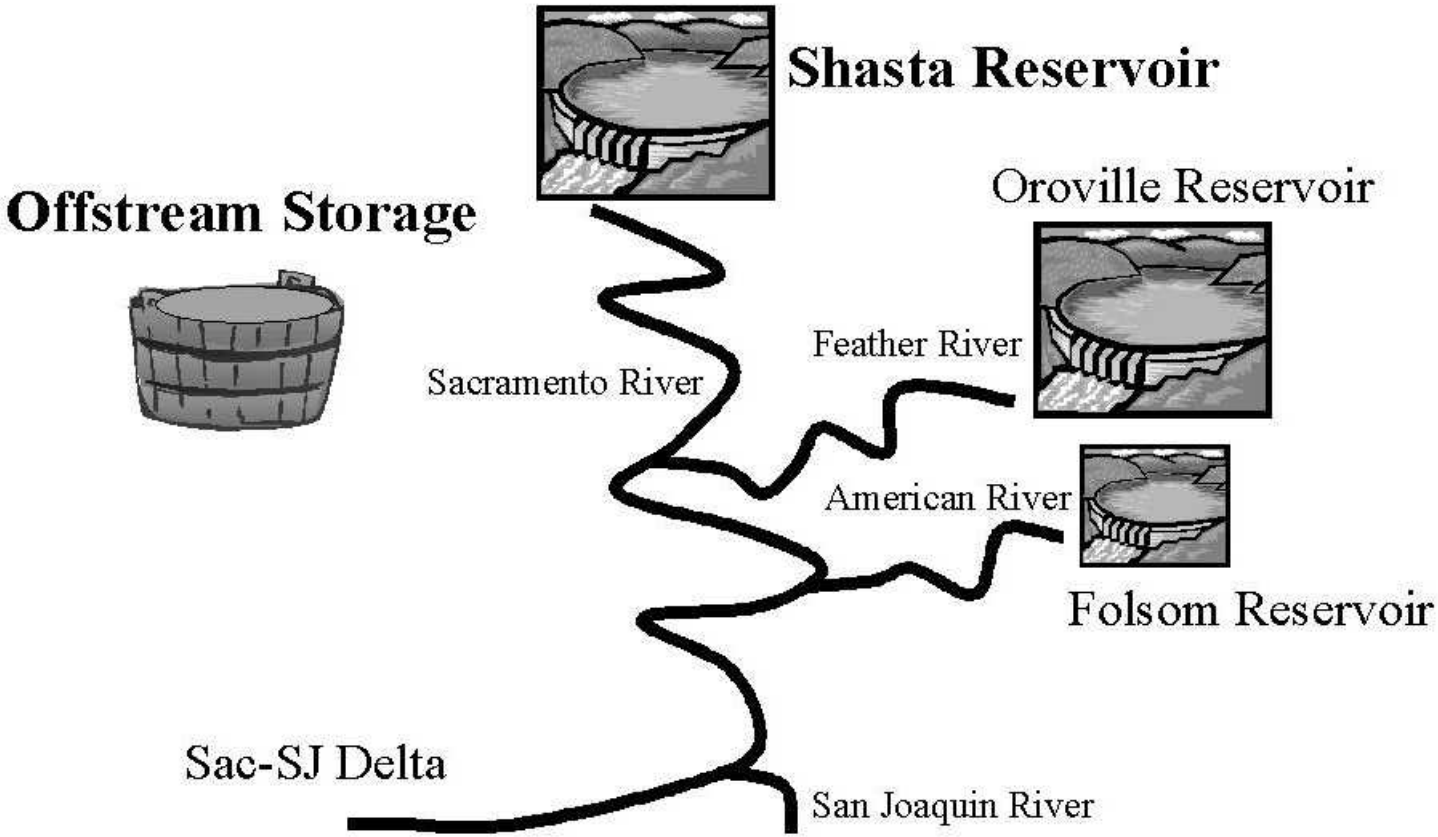
TC Canal

GCID Canal

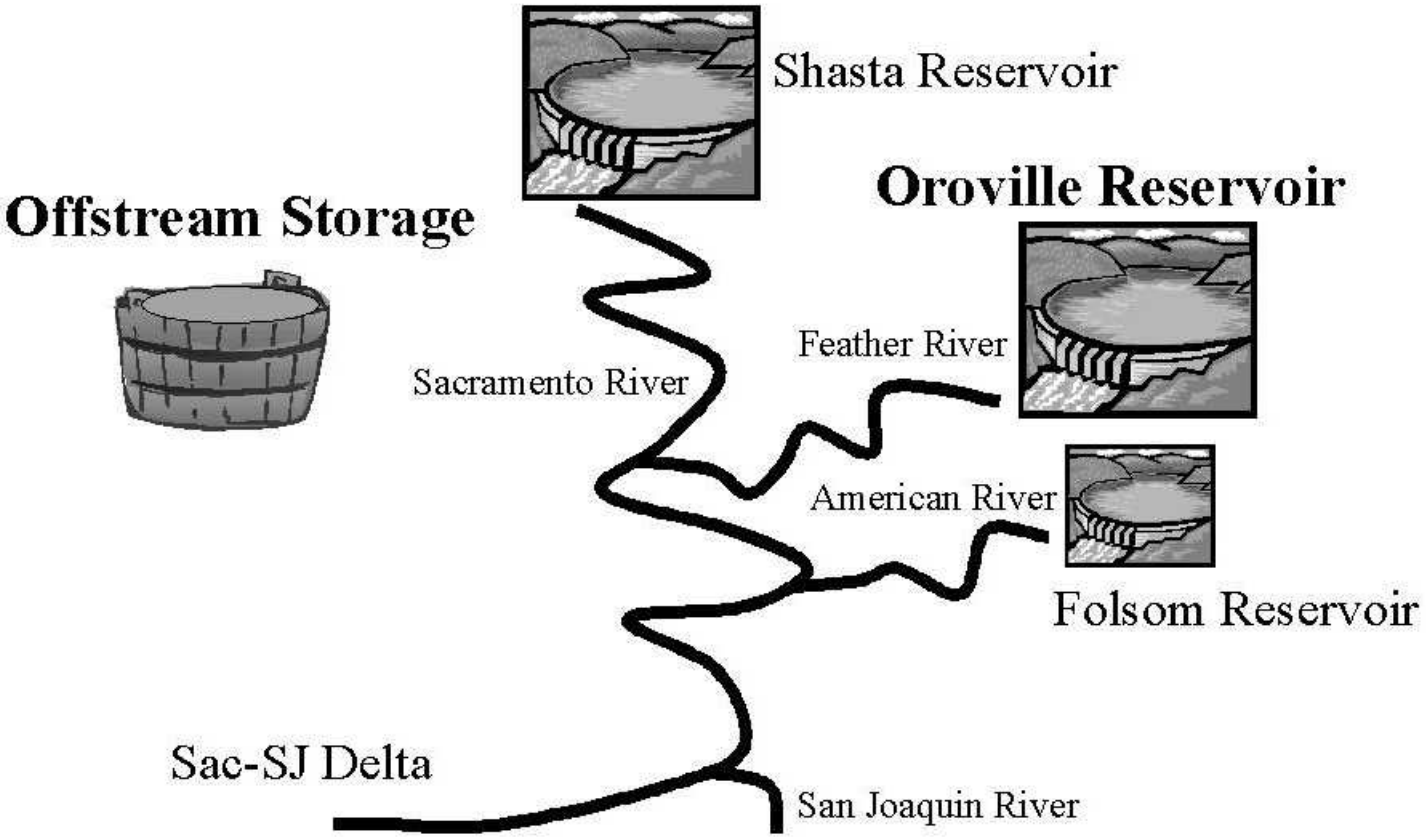
Water Management Flexibility



Water Management Flexibility



Water Management Flexibility



Water Management Flexibility