

EWA Science Review 2003

Preliminary Comments
and Recommendations

October 17, 2003

Sacramento, CA

Introduction

- Third annual review
- Same members (minus one)
- Not going to repeat recommendations from previous two reports
- Today
 - Positive activities
 - Five major comments or recommendations

Many Positives

- Water supply side
 - Creative diversification of resources
 - Evaluation of accounting
 - Development of models for acquisition, storage, and debt
- Further evidence of increasing cooperation
 - Examples include DCC and Clifton Court
 - Clear but difficult to quantify multiplier effects

Many Positives

- Workshops
- Serious consideration of Panel's past recommendations
 - Continued evaluation of decision trees
 - Performance measures
 - Refinement of scientific tools, e.g. salmon tracking

Many Positives

- Increased consideration of how to use EWA water (e.g., upstream vs Delta)
- Forthcoming PSP
- Avoided any water and fish crises

Factor 1: Short to Long term

- EWA appears to be going from a 4-year experiment to a longer term program
- Creates new opportunities and risks
- Will require new analyses and tools

Factor 1: Short to Long term

- Possible changes in the regulatory aspects (e.g., biological opinions)
- Managing potential third party impacts from water acquisition, storage, and debt
- Managing biological and financial risk in a highly variable and changing hydrological system

Factor 2: Increased accountability

- Increased accountability as to the benefits of EWA actions
- Arise from the long-term investment and the involvement of public and stakeholder money

Recommendations

1. Continued annual science reviews

- stimulate cooperation
- documentation and synthesis
- creditability

Recommendations

2. EWA-wide program review every 4-5 years

- self study and outside assistance
- shift from short to long term
- lessons learned
- address our concerns about adequate documentation

Recommendations

3. Increased evaluation and integration
(comprehensive review) of EWA with
other programs and tools

- environmental water
- habitat

Recommendations

4. Better incorporation of science not only into EWA but also into policy and regulatory aspects (e.g., biological opinions)
 - flexibility of EWA fully utilized
 - adaptive biological opinions, updated in response to new science (opportunity)

Recommendations

5. People resources to address the critical science

- see list of scientific challenges; reports
- heard various justifications – *Panel is disappointed and perplexed*
- more creativity and networking
- alliances with academics and others
- Panel has offered several mechanisms
- needs to be resolved if the EWA program is to succeed

Concluding Remarks

- Much significant progress in several important areas
- Time for evaluation of EWA science and program
- People resources is the top priority

We'll Be Back!