

2006 Environmental Water Account (EWA) Review

- Organized by CALFED Science Program in collaboration with EWA Implementing Agencies
- November 28 - 30, 2006 in Sacramento, CA

EWA Program– Brief Overview

- Established in 2000 as part of the Record of Decision (ROD)
- Goal: Provide increased water supply reliability to water users while assuring the availability of sufficient water to meet fishery protection and restoration/recovery goals
- Provides regulatory assurance as part of the conservation agreements for CALFED implementation

Implementing agencies: USFWS, NMFS, DFG, Reclamation, DWR

CALFED Science Program's Role in EWA

- Tasked by the ROD to provide annual scientific review
- Organized 4 technical reviews to date
 - Focused on technical evaluation of past year's program implementation and assessment of science application in the implementation
- 2004 Review also assessed first four years of program implementation (2000-2004)
 - Acknowledged progress in water supply reliability with acceptable fish protection, reduced political conflict, water acquisition, communication, documentation, and some areas of scientific investigation and science-based management
 - Need to expand research base and upgrade quality of science underlying EWA program decisions
 - Improve use, interpretation, and peer-review of models
 - Initiating new research
 - Expanding review audience, increasing interaction with Panel, re-evaluating role of advisors, and reducing frequency of reviews

CALFED Science Program's Role in EWA con't

- Lead Scientist-EWA Agencies joint response to improve efficacy of EWA
 - Outlines joint commitment from the Science Program and EWA Agencies
 - Includes specific actions and timelines to achieve stated goals
- 2005 EWA Workshop (December 05)
 - Focus on issues of export effects relative to EWA on sensitive fish populations, specifically delta smelt
 - Implications for EWA operations in the near-term
 - Broad participation from stakeholders

2006 Technical Review

■ Scope

- Examine biological effects/benefits of EWA and other environmental water in recovery of at-risk species
- Assess science application in program implementation since 2000
- Planning for use of environmental water assets and potential management actions based on recent scientific investigations
- Guidance for future environmental water use and management

■ Charge to Panel

- Questions targeted at program evaluation—is program meeting objectives of species protection and recovery?

2006 Panel Members

Jim Lichatowich-Chair

Ron Kneib

Buzz Thompson

Andrew Solow

Paul Smith

Stephen Monismith

Kenny Rose

Jim Anderson

Jim Cowan

Other Considerations

- Funding uncertainties beyond Year 7
- Unclear program duration
- Uncertain if EWA or EWA-type program is a future tool in fishery protection/recovery toolbox

ISB Role in EWA Review?

- Provide technical oversight
 - Near-term
 - Mid-term
 - Long-term