

Work Group: Water Quality, Supply, Reliability and Environmental Restoration
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Quarter: 1st 2009
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Description of Activity by Goal and Objective

- Goal 1:** Develop and implement a comprehensive San Joaquin Valley Regional Water Plan.
- Goal 2:** Strengthen levees in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and San Joaquin Valley to safeguard regional water quality and quantity and provide flood control.
- Goal 3:** Augment surface, groundwater banking programs and recycled water projects in the San Joaquin Valley.
- Goal 4:** Develop and implement water quality and salinity management infrastructure.
- Goal 5:** Expand environmental restoration and habitat conservation strategies.
- Goal 6:** Expand agricultural and urban water-energy use efficiency programs

Planned Activities by Goal and Objective (for next 3-6 months)

Goal 1: Completed.

The San Joaquin Valley Water Plan Framework final version (Version 3.0) is set to be affirmed by the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) Board of Directors at its June 12, 2009, meeting in Modesto. To obtain a copy, please visit the Partnership website: <http://www.sjvpartnership.org> or the California Water Institute (CWI) website: <http://www.californiawater.org>

Goal 2:

The Delta Vision Strategic Plan was released Nov. 3, 2008. The resolution may be found at: http://deltavision.ca.gov/StrategicPlanningProcess/StaffDraft/Delta_Vision_Strategic_Plan_standard_resolution.pdf

The Delta Vision Committee Implementation Report was released Jan. 5, 2009. The report may be found at: http://deltavision.ca.gov/DV_Committee/Jan2009/08-1231_Delta_Vision_Committee_Implementation_Report.pdf

Both documents are under consideration by the California Legislature and will figure prominently in the formulation of a 2009 water bond.

The Delta Vision Foundation (<http://deltavisionfoundation.org>) was formed in January 2009 with the goal of promoting the full embrace and implementation of the seven recommendations contained in the Strategic Plan.

The Partnership sent a letter of support to Delta Vision Chair Phil Isenberg in June 2008. A copy is available on the Partnership website: http://www.sjvpartnership.org/wg_overview.php?wg_id=10

Goal 3:

Development of the San Joaquin Valley Water Plan Framework will incorporate augmenting surface, groundwater banking and recycled water projects in the region as initiatives in each of these areas favorably impacts the overall macro-goals of the Partnership.

Additionally, CWI staff will seek to use the recently released California State University, Fresno, Integrated Water Management Plan for water reuse at the Campus Pointe project as a Best Practices template for the central San Joaquin Valley (Valley) and seek out other innovative projects in both the southern and northern Valley.

Goal 4:

CWI staff currently is working proactively with the water community to develop a San Joaquin Valley Water Management Structure that would include salinity management as one of its major program areas.

Goal 5:

Staff continues to be engaged with local, state and federal agencies for environmental restoration as a key strategy in integrated water planning.

The partial restoration of the San Joaquin River flows is a component of the Omnibus Public Lands Management Bill S22 passed Jan. 11, 2009, and awaiting President Obama's signature. To read the bill, visit:

<http://energy.senate.gov/public/files/publiclandsomnibusbill2009.pdf>

Goal 6:

The Center for Irrigation Technology (CIT) of California State University, Fresno, continues to be at the forefront of developing and implementing comprehensive water/energy conservation and management programs throughout California for the California Public Utilities Commission, PG&E and Southern California Edison. PG&E renewed CIT's Agricultural Pump Efficiency Program contract for the period 2009-11 in early January 2009.

The value of the contract is \$2.6 million.

Activities in Support of California Partnership Goals

The Partnership's Water Policy Working Group continues to make progress in proactively engaging water leaders in the eight-county area and Southern California areas to develop a unified water policy vision. At a meeting on April 23, 2009, with California's Department of Water Resources in Sacramento, the role of the San Joaquin Valley Water Management Plan was clarified as an "Inter-Regional" Plan versus a "Regional" Plan to reflect concerns expressed by some participants involved.

CWI will continue to support this effort until the Partnership contract ends June 30, 2009.

For more information on the efforts of this group, contact Ray Watson, Gene Voiland, Jim Tischer, (559)260-6148, jtischer@csufresno.edu, or Sarge Green, (559)298-6072 ext. 209, sgreen@csufresno.edu.

Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback

California water policy challenges continue with some of the most vulnerable citizens suffering inordinate hardship as a result of water shortages and regulatory imbroglis in the face of an economic downturn. It remains to be seen if the appropriate water policy mechanisms can be established to effectively and sustainably counter what has been the norm for the last 30 years.

If you have coordinated any outreach, please describe briefly.

Coordination is regularly effected with allied Partnership work groups, particularly Energy, Air, Land Use, Ag & Housing (Blueprint) as well as agencies and seed grantees. This coordination has proven to be of great value.