

Update on Replenishment Program

Water Planning and Stewardship Committee
Item 9-2
September 12, 2011

Overview

- Current Program
- Background
- Replenishment Workgroup Process
 - Key Principles
 - Technical Assessment
- Next Steps

Current Replenishment Service Program

- Provides surplus imported water for conjunctive management of local storage
 - Interruptible
 - Discounted price
 - Long-term storage of groundwater and surface water

Background

- The Replenishment Service Program discontinued in 2007 due to drought/supply constraints
- In May 2011, Board conditionally authorized limited Replenishment Service Program deliveries for CY 2011
- Board directed staff to “recommend options to reform the replenishment services program in a manner that assures regional reliability benefits by December 2011.”

Replenishment Workgroup Process

- Meetings with Member Agencies and Basin Managers
- Goal to identify issues, benefits, key principles
- Basin-by-basin technical assessment
 - 9 basin presentations with member agencies and basin managers
- Alternatives will be developed
- Recommendations for Board consideration by end of 2011

Key Characteristics of a Replenishment Service Program

- Conjunctive management of imported supplies and local storage
- Both groundwater and surface storage
- Regional benefits
 - Move surplus from wet years to dry years
 - Performance-based pricing and implementation

Basin Presentations Have Provided Important Information

- Basin Presentations (May-August) by Member Agencies and Basin Managers
- Technical Overview
 - “How is water managed, and what has been the role of imported replenishment in your strategy?”
- Desired Attributes of a Replenishment Program
 - “What do you want, and why?”
 - “How would it benefit the region?”

Basins Have Unique Characteristics

- Basin Management
 - Adjudicated vs. non-adjudicated
 - Safe Yield limits
 - Carryover rules
- Groundwater Production Rights
 - Some basins have individual pumper rights
 - In other basins, production is controlled by pricing mechanisms or other formulas
- Basin Recharge Opportunities
 - Reliance on natural recharge and/or other sources
 - Spreading, Injection, In-Lieu

Regional Benefits of Replenishment

- Regional Benefits of Replenishment Service Program identified by basin managers include
 - Promoting conjunctive operation of local storage and imported supplies
 - During supply shortage, allows short-term overdraft
 - During supply surplus, promotes groundwater recharge
 - Could reduce peak capacity use

Next Steps

- Workgroup meetings scheduled through September 2011
 - Developing Alternatives and Recommendations
- Board Information Item – November 2011
- Board Consideration – December 2011

