

2. Update to Water Forum Purveyor-Specific Agreements

BACKGROUND

At the time the WFP Draft EIR was prepared, some purveyors who were stakeholders in the Water Forum process had remaining issues that had not been resolved. Although final agreements had not yet been reached with these stakeholders, it was reasonable to assume that some agreement would be reached prior to adoption of the Water Forum Agreement. To ensure adequate consideration of the effects of these purveyors' participation in the Water Forum Agreement, the water resources modeling on which much of the WFP Draft EIR analysis was based assumed participation by all of the stakeholder purveyors at diversion amounts based upon reasonable expectations in light of the ongoing negotiations and the facts and circumstances relevant to each purveyor's water needs during the life of the project. Thus, the WFP Draft EIR analyzed the impacts of the WFP assuming all stakeholders would join in the Water Forum Agreement.

The purveyors with unresolved issues at the time the WFP Draft EIR was prepared were Arcade Water District, El Dorado Irrigation District, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District, Rancho Murieta Community Services District, and Rio Linda Elverta Community Water District. This section of the WFP Draft EIR describes the current status of these purveyors' participation in the Water Forum Agreement and how the agreements that have been reached affect the environmental analysis in the WFP Draft EIR.

The Rio Linda Elverta Community Water District, which had agreed to enter into a Procedural Agreement, has completed negotiations that will allow this agency to join in the Water Forum Agreement (see details below).

The issues of concern to Arcade Water District, El Dorado Irrigation District, and Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District, and Rancho Murieta Community Services District remain unresolved. These purveyors are expected to enter into Procedural Agreements with signatories to the Water Forum Agreement and will not be initial signatories to the Agreement. Until these agencies sign the Water Forum Agreement, their projects are outside the scope of the project. Water Forum signatories have committed to work in good faith with these stakeholders to negotiate mutually acceptable agreements to resolve remaining issues. Once these issues are resolved, the Water Forum Agreement is expected to be amended to include them. At this time, there is no reason to believe that these issues will be resolved in a way that would change the results of the analysis in the WFP Draft EIR. In the event that the future agreements differ substantially from the assumptions used in the WFP Draft EIR, additional environmental analysis could be required, including consideration of cumulative impacts of water diversion during dry and critically dry years, and mitigation.

Rio Linda Elverta Community Water District

Rio Linda Elverta Community Water District (RLECWD) has negotiated a purveyor-specific agreement with Water Forum stakeholders that provides for RLECWD's year 2030 water supply needs. RLECWD acknowledges in the agreement that decisions on how to maintain the long-term sustainable yield of the North Area groundwater basin will be made by the Sacramento North Area Groundwater Management Authority (SNAGMA) with representation of the RLECWD on the SNAGMA's governing board consistent with the joint powers agreement establishing SNAGMA. SNAGMA management of the Sacramento North Area groundwater basin is described at page 4.2-4 of the WFP Draft EIR.

The agreement would allow RLECWD to meet future demands without exceeding the parameters of the diversion levels modeled for other purveyors and it is entirely consistent with what was analyzed in the WFP Draft EIR. Therefore, the agreement would not produce any new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of significant impacts identified in the WFP Draft EIR.