

Update of Activities

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Overview

- Comparative Study of Consumptive Use in the Delta
- Report on 2015 Diversion Reduction Program among in-Delta Riparians
- Salinity Hot Spots in the South Delta
- Implementation of New Measurement Regulation
- Enforcement Actions
- Consolidating Drought Lessons and Data



Origin of the CU Study

- Proof of concept sponsored by the DPC; thank you for continued support
- Controversy over quantification of in-Delta water use
- Multiple methods for measuring CU; little Delta calibration
- Rapidly developing technology
- Changing land uses, farming practices, and water rights administration
- Operating constraints based on drought impacts
- Recognition that CU is only “one leg of the stool”
- Need better data for operational and regulatory efforts
- Many parallel research efforts underway; coordination optimized and duplication minimized



Today's Update on CU Study

- Meeting of Study Participants this Morning
- Fully Funded, Subject to Partial Reimbursement
- UC Davis Center for Watershed Science is Lead
- Five Additional CIMIS Stations Deployed
- Land Use Survey: from trucks to satellites
- 2015/2016 Field Campaign for Reference
- Creation of Open Data with QA/QC
- Eight Methods to be Blind Tested & Compared
- Report Due in March of 2017
- Study Results will Inform Policy



Thank You to Study Funding Partners

- State Water Resources Control Board
- Department of Water Resources
- Delta Stewardship Council
- **Delta Protection Commission**
- Delta Water Agencies
- San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority
- Other co-funding commitments are under consideration
- Many entities have also contributed in kind



Diversion Reduction Program

- Report Published on March 11; Headlines:
 - 217 Voluntary Plans Prepared, Covering 2/3 of the Central and South Delta: 180,000 acres (and portion of CCCo)
 - Program Overachieved Target: 32% Reduction Reported
 - Flexibility and Voluntary Nature of the Program Incentivized Creativity and Micro-response
 - Helped to Avert Riparian Curtailment
 - Great Example of Voluntary Action to Address a Common Problem
 - Results without Waiving Cherished Rights, Going to Court, or Triggering Regulation
 - Report Posted on Watermaster Website
http://waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/delta_watermaster/docs/diversion_reduction15.pdf



Salinity Hot Spots in South Delta

- Six “Exceedances” of Project Permit Conditions Centered on Tracy Blvd. Monitor
- Complex, Long-term Problem Creates Friction and Tests Regulatory Credibility
- Watermaster Coordinating with Regional Board
- DWR Commissioned a New Study of Causes and Potential Remediation Options
- Collaborative Process Aims at Resolution



Measurement Regulation Implementation

- New Regulation (Jan. 19) Implements SB 88
- Sets Measurement Accuracy Performance Standard for Diversions Greater than 10AFA
- May be Met with “Device” or “Method”
- Alternative Compliance Plan Allows Bespoke Response
- No Regulatory “Approval”
- Outreach Underway
- Data Avalanche Presents a Management Challenge



Enforcement of Water Right System

- Notices of Insufficient Supply Issued in 2015
- Challenges Ensued
 - Authority, Jurisdiction, Data, Methodology, etc.
 - Both Court and Board Review
- Actions against WSID and BBID go to Water Board Hearing Next Week
- Also, a Tentative Decision in the Tanaka Case was Issued on Feb. 22 and Re-argued Mar. 11



Drought Lessons

- Challenge is to Consolidate the 2015 Chaos
- Current Hydrology Provides a Respite
- Need to Test Policies in Court Resolutions
- Insights from Administration of Water Rights in Extreme Shortage Should Inform Policies
 - Projects' Petition for Change in Water Rights
 - Update of Delta Water Quality Control Plan
 - Delta Plan Update and Implementation
 - Future Water Right Administration
 - Data Management and Use
 - Curtailments among Riparian and Priority Claimants

