

# Statewide Data Program Needs Assessment

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## Low Moeller and the California Water Plan Thursday, December 02, 2010

Water balances are the main deliverable of the California Water Plan. The California Water Plan contributes about \$600,000 to each region to develop the water balances.

### What To Ask Fund Managers

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#### . **Needs**

.. What data do you need to fulfill the mission(s) of the program? (variables, sites/network, temporal, or data management)

Need land use data, water use data, groundwater data and demographics to put the water balances together, and running scenarios.

The California Water Plan gives \$600,000 to each regional office to prepare the water balances and attend California Water Plan meetings.

Low recommended that we talk to:

Terry Weggener about flood data. Terry is working on flood planning for the entire state, and would have a better idea about the flood data needs.

Tito Cervantes about water balance data. Tito is the work team lead for water balances on the California Water Plan.

Rich Juricich about data needs for scenarios. Rich has been working on improving groundwater data and change in storage information. He would have a better idea of what goes into the scenarios, and what assumptions are made.

Low talked about a link to water rights at the State Water Resources Control Board. When the Water Rights Division granted a water right, sometimes they tied the right to a gauge (the height of water on the gauge). The water right holder then had an incentive to keep the gauge operational. Also, the Water Rights Division is funded by fees, so they could assess fees to keep the gauges operational if it were really important.

.. What type of data (variable domain) do you need?

See previous answer.

The following data is critical to water balances:

- ❖ Surface water

- ❖ Groundwater
- ❖ Land use
- ❖ Water Use
- ❖ Demographics

Lew asked us to check with Tito about CIMIS.

Talk to Rich about groundwater basin balances and scenarios.

.. What areas(s) of the state do you need data collected in?

Statewide

.. What temporal frequency do you need data collected?

Probably monthly. Need to collect the data at a greater frequency than annually for the annual analyses to be any good.

.. What data management do you need (accessibility, documentation of quality, documentation of methods)?

Lew has not really thought about this.

The do not need high quality data to make estimates.

The California Water Plan mixes high quality data with estimates. They use what they can. It is not like SWAMP where high quality data is necessary.

.. What historical data do you need?

The California Water Plan develops water balances by year. Each water plan takes five years, so they try to produce five years of water balances. They generally run two years behind.

The California Water Plan will need historical data for trends. Rich would know more about this.

.. Are there needs you have that are not being met by the data program? If so, what are they?

Groundwater is the biggest gap that needs filling. The California Water Plan needs change in storage estimates for each basin (inflow and outflow). Groundwater is the error term for the current water balances.

Better data for anything that is estimated would be nice. Again, talk to Tito and Rich about this. Tito came to Lew at the end of the last California Water Plan with a wish list for data, including wastewater treatment plants outflows.

.. What impact would there be on your program if data at this site were no longer collected?

See answer to 1.9.

.. What impact would there be on your program if data in the network were no longer collected?

If the data were no longer collected, the California Water Plan would have to use rough estimates. There would be more public challenges to the California Water Plan, and less good will (and less confidence) from the local and regional organizations. This will take some time to deteriorate.

### **Apportioning Costs**

.. What is the best way to charge programs for the data they need?

.. If there are multiple customers for a single site, how would you prefer to apportion costs?

Lots of data is used for multiple purposes, and by multiple programs. Probably the program that needs the data the most should pay for it. It is not clear how to determine the greatest need.

Lew recommended talking to John O'Hagan at the State Water Resources Control Board, and Jim Kassel.

### **Comments**

There is a disconnect between the California Water Plan and the data program. Sites do not appear to be prioritized (especially surface water sites) and there is not support for them.