

SSIRWMP ISSUES
DRAFT 10/3/08

(Note, issues in italics are recommendations from IRWMP standards or the Grantwriter)

Water Policy, Conflicts, Management, Governance

- Water Priorities/Water rights
 - Soft demand (agriculture) v. hard demand (development) can let agricultural fields go fallow but can't let people go without water
 - San Joaquin River Restoration Program- result of litigation, question as how to be implemented- the way it is eventually implemented can have regional impacts on water supply, flood control.
 - Upstream, downstream conflicts over pre-1914 rights. Groundwater extraction (limited supply) in the foothills affecting pre-1914 water rights.
 - Tule Tribes—tribal rights
- Decision Making re: Funding Resources
 - Regional MOU
 - Funding Area JPA
- Water Conflicts
 - Regional conflicts
 - Development of foothills will affect water users in the valley (such as agriculture) because have to take water up from the valley or take water before it gets to a dam and will affect downstream users
 - Local conflicts
 - Holding contracts specific to agriculture to water in San Joaquin- those contracts have not been exercised, developers trying to change holding contracts to municipal and industrial users, would affect Friant Kern canal users
- Making sure that land use decision-makers integrate IRWMP into their operational documents, including
 - Water supply for development
 - Protection of areas of special biological significance

Water Supply

- Overall need to understand how much water exists in “the cracks,” i.e. fractured rock
- Specific areas where water supply is in question:
 - Shaver Lake
 - Land use & new development
 - Montgomery Ranch
 - Yokohl Valley
 - Springville
 - Three Rivers
- Minimum well production
- Climate Change – impact on water supply and storage
- Cloud Seeding (‘precipitation enhancement’)

- Surface Storage:
 - Issues with current surface storage
 - New Dam Proposals
 - Tule Tribe wants to build a surface water storage
 - Lewis Creek, tributary to the Kaweah River
 - Temperance Flat on San Joaquin River
- Mapping projects
 - Watershed corridors
 - Recharge areas
 - Location for storage areas
- *Conjunctive management and groundwater storage*

Reduce Water Demand

- *Water recycling?*
- *Agricultural Water Use Efficiency*
- *Infrastructure improvements (line canals, fix leaky pipes, etc.)*

Water Quality

- Sediment post-fire
- Irrigated ag runoff
- Cattle in rivers
- Heavy grazing in riparian areas
- Sediment buildups in storage facilities
- Septic
 - Septic to systems
 - *Assess need for sewer systems*
 - esp. needed in granitic soils
 - Assessment for septic (Fresno State)
 - Soils
 - Density
 - How to finance
- Change in land use affects quality of runoff
- Drinking water quality
 - Uranium, arsenic, iron, magnesium, mercury, and radon contamination
 - *Nitrates?*
 - Disadvantaged communities:
 - Poor tap water makes affordability of purchasing water an issue
 - Substandard water systems in rural areas. Small, unincorporated communities lack resources to upgrade marginal systems.
 - Common in the Valley; a problem in foothills, too.
- Any listed waters of special concern by the state in this area?

Flood Management

- How to manage runoff flows from the Sierra

- Diverting runoff from the Kings River into the San Joaquin to avoid local flooding of Homeland Ranch (Boswell) which is prime agricultural land.
- Flood management—check dams
 - raise dam levels?
- Identify flood areas and local flooding issues.
- Certain habitats require flooding, not channelizing
- Change in land use affects quality of runoff
- *Modify impacts to flooding?*

Resource Stewardship:

- Vegetation Management - Forest management and water yield
 - Kings River Experimental Watershed, locals in favor and outsiders ie Sierra Club now litigating. Was to address vegetation management (investigating meadows for water yield, heavier forest management as in more removal in order to increase water yield) with regard to fire and water yield.
- Invasive species
 - aquatic
 - terrestrial
- Development and resource protection
 - Sufficient water to cover existing and planned development
 - How to demonstrate available water for development
 - Overall regional assessment of water availability
 - Protection of agriculture, habitat and open space
 - Specific areas with issues:
 - Yokohl Valley- proposing to build on a stream corridor,
 - Shaver Lake development- will be looking for surface water
- Reforestation/*Ecosystem Restoration*
- Riparian Management
- Conservation Easements, etc.
 - Map existing conservation easements
 - Recommendations for additional conservation easements
 - Habitat Mitigation Banks
 - *Agricultural Land Stewardship*
- Special Biological Significance and Special Habitats
 - Upper Deer Creek Watershed- valuable and intact riverine corridor that is undeveloped and not dammed, intact flood plain, highest number of sensitive species and habitats in region from the crest to Pixley. 62 special status species.
 - Condor Preserve in Blue Ridge- Wildlife refuge and state lands there
 - Blue oak woodlands, major migratory stop for birds, Tulare county has longest uninterrupted stretch of blue oak woodlands, width not protected
 - Sequoia Kings National Park
 - Some largest old growth mixed conifer forests
 - Golden trout wilderness

- Little Kern golden trout
- Canyon live oak woodlands
- Alluvial, delta like, floodplain areas (Kings, Kaweah, Tule) elderberry protected Kelso creek flood corridor, alluvial
- Kern River Preserve- largest intact riparian area in western US, significant habitat for flycatcher etc.
- Sycamore alluvial woodland- second largest in the world
- Giant Sequoia groves
- Native grasslands (some large contiguous stands in Tulare County)
 - Tule River Indian Reservation
- Wetlands
 - Vernal pools
- Connectivity important for climate change shifts
 - Diversity of topographic features
 - Ability to move north, south and upslope
 - Large area not fragmented by roads etc should be noted for importance in face of climate change
- *Watershed Management*
- *Recharge Area Protection*

Other

- Energy efficiency in water transport
- Recreation
 - *Water dependent recreation*
 - Impacts of different activities, different users
 - Hmong and other Southeast Asians—visit to hunt, fish, and gather plants.
 - Center for New Americans—Fresno; California Amerasian Resource Education (interested in mercury levels)
- Area has potential for carbon sequestration
- *Economic incentives (loans, grants and water pricing)*

Improve Operational Efficiency and Transfers (relevant to this region?)

- *Conveyance*
- *System Reoperation*
- *Water Transfers*