

White Papers

General Overview:

Six White Papers were developed by the Delta Stewardship Council staff to be used as informational documents designed to educate the Council on the background and critical issues of each of the individual policy items.

1. Water Resources White Paper
2. Delta as a Place: Agriculture White Paper
3. Delta Emergency Management White Paper
4. Delta Land Use/Socioeconomics White Paper
5. Delta Ecosystem White Paper
6. Flood Risk White Paper

Water Resources White Paper:

This white paper is intended to describe the development of facilities and jurisdictional requirements over the past 150 years that have addressed beneficial uses, potential and real conflicts between those uses, and future risks. This white paper provides a summary of historical and existing conditions, but does not provide specific details such as operational criteria for water systems that divert water from the Delta watersheds. This white paper does not address methods to reduce the risks or reduce existing or potential adverse conditions in the Delta. Additional information will be provided in the Existing Conditions and Affected Environment sections of the EIR, including:

- Surface water flows and water quality characteristics
- Groundwater use and quality
- Facilities used by the SWP, CVP, and other major water systems
- Historical and existing water use, and a comparison of water use and water supplies

The draft water resources section of Existing Conditions will be presented to the Council in early 2011.

Link to Delta Stewardship Council website and all 6 White Papers:

<http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/white-papers.html>

SRCSO Comments on the Water Resources White Paper, dated December 8, 2010

Pages 3-21-22: As requested at the December 16, 2010 Delta Stewardship Council meeting SRCSO would like the following recycled water program added as a case study of recycled water use in the Delta. This case study demonstrates the issues regarding cost of infrastructure for increased recycled water reuse, and is specific to the Delta Region. Please let us know if you need any additional information for adding a Delta Region case study of recycled water use.

The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSO) safely treats and disinfects an average of 150 million gallons a day (mgd) of municipal wastewater - water that could be put to beneficial use as a recycled water supply for the Sacramento region. Unfortunately, most of this valuable and reliable water supply is not being recycled due to a lack of funding to construct the required infrastructure.

Currently, SRCSO's Water Reclamation Facility produces an average of 3.5 mgd of tertiary recycled water delivered seasonally for landscape irrigation in south Sacramento County, with a capacity to deliver up to 5 mgd. The design for a facility expansion up to 10mgd is complete and the design for an additional water transmission pipeline is in progress. However, construction for the overall expansion project is on hold due to a lack of funding for the distribution pipeline and other necessary infrastructure. The capital cost for the water treatment facility expansion is estimated at \$18 million. State grants in the amount of \$5.4 million have been awarded for the facility expansion. The estimated cost for the storage, pumping and distribution system is estimated at \$17 million.

Recycled water is a valuable commodity that can be an important resource in the regional's overall water portfolio. SRCSO can supply substantial amounts of high-quality recycled water with multiple benefits for multiple uses. In 2007, SRCSO completed a Water Recycling Opportunities Study that identified several local and regional projects that could benefit from the use of recycled water. The South Sacramento County Agriculture and Habitat Lands Water Recycling Project is one of the projects identified by this study. This project would provide a safe and reliable supply of tertiary treated water for up to 8000 acres of land used for agricultural, conservation and mitigation purposes, at an estimated total capital cost of up to \$293 per acre-foot of water. This project has multiple benefits including reducing local groundwater pumping, support of habitat restoration efforts, and providing near-term benefits to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the region. Other future projects that might be possible through a regional collaboration include those such as establishment of a local groundwater banking system and the use of recycled water for recharge of local surface waters such as the Cosumnes River.

SRCSO wants to participate in solving the State's water supply issue by expanding our water recycling program in the Sacramento region. We have recently taken the lead in forming the Sacramento Water Recycling Coalition, a group of members that includes local water purveyors, representatives of agricultural and wildlife habitat groups, cities, county departments, local water authorities, and others who are interested in expanding the use of recycled water in our region. The purpose of this coalition is to collaborate to gain support for recycled water projects in the

Sacramento area that have regional benefits while building the framework to support a regional comprehensive water reuse program. However, in order to expand the use of recycled water on a regional scale, state and federal funding will be needed to help offset project costs and to guide the future direction for water recycling in the Sacramento region. Strong partnerships and commitment will be required from local utilities, water purveyors and community leaders to support and promote the expansion and development of a comprehensive recycled water program for the greater Sacramento region. SRCSD's goal is to increase water recycling throughout the Sacramento region up to 30 to 40 million gallons per day (MGD) over the next 20 years.