

Dated: July 11, 2003.

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*Bureau of Land Management, Information  
Collection Clearance Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Reclamation

#### Sacramento River Water Reliability Study

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement/ environmental impact report (EIS/EIR) and notice of scoping meetings.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) propose to prepare a joint EIS/EIR for the Sacramento River Water Reliability Study (SRWRS). Reclamation is the Lead Federal Agency for NEPA and PCWA is Lead State Agency for CEQA. PCWA, Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD), and the cities of Roseville, and Sacramento are cost-sharing partners.

**DATES:** A series of public scoping meetings will be held to solicit public input on the alternatives, concerns, and issues to be addressed in the EIS/EIR as follows:

- Monday, September 15, 2003, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Sacramento, CA.
- Monday, September 15, 2003, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Sacramento, CA.
- Wednesday, September 17, 2003, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Willows, CA.
- Monday, September 22, 2003, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Yuba City, CA.
- Tuesday, September 23, 2003, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Stockton, CA.
- Wednesday, September 24, 2003, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Rocklin, CA.

Written comments on the scope of the EIS/EIR may be mailed to Reclamation or PCWA at the addresses below by Monday, October 12, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting locations are:

- In Sacramento, Best Western Expo Inn, 1413 Howe Avenue, Expo Room.
- In Willows, Memorial Hall, 525 West Sycamore.
- In Yuba City, Sutter County Veterans Hall, 1425 Veterans Memorial Drive.
- In Stockton, Radisson Hotel, Delta IV Room, 2323 Grand Canal Blvd., Stockton, CA 95207.

- In Rocklin, Rocklin City Council Chambers, 3970 Rocklin Road, Rocklin, CA 95677.

Written comments on the scope of the EIS/EIR should be sent to: Ms. Mona Jefferies-Soniea, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, MP-700, Sacramento, CA 95825 or Mr. Steve Yaeger, c/o Ms. Darcy Granieri, Placer County Water Agency, P.O. Box 6570, Auburn, CA 95604-6570.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Jefferies-Soniea at the above address, at 916-978-5068, or via fax at 916-978-5094 or e-mail at [mjefferies-soniea@mp.usbr.gov](mailto:mjefferies-soniea@mp.usbr.gov); or Mr. Yaeger at the above address or at 530-823-4962. Additional information is available online at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/srwrs>. If special assistance is required, please call Ms. Sammie Cervantes, Reclamation, at 915-978-5104, TDD 916-978-5608, or via e-mail at [scervantes@mp.usbr.gov](mailto:scervantes@mp.usbr.gov) no less than 5 working days prior to the meetings.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The SRWRS cost-sharing partners have identified their long-term needs for additional water supplies to meet growing water supply demands and reliability objectives in their respective service areas. The goal of the SRWRS is to develop a water supply plan that is consistent with the Water Forum Agreement (April 24, 2000) objectives of pursuing a Sacramento River diversion to meet water supply needs of the Placer-Sacramento region and promoting ecosystem preservation along the lower American River. The project location is the greater Sacramento metropolitan area, encompassing portions of southern Sutter County, northern Sacramento County, and western and southern Placer County.

#### Project Description

To meet the water supply needs of the cost-sharing partners, the SRWRS will identify a package of water supply infrastructure components, including new or expanded diversion(s) from the Sacramento, Feather, or American Rivers, and new or expanded water treatment and pumping facilities, storage tanks, and major transmission and distribution pipelines.

The SRWRS will include a feasibility study and an EIS/EIR for identified water supply alternatives as the basis for seeking necessary biological opinions and permits from the responsible resource agencies to allow execution of necessary agreements and construction of the recommended water supply infrastructure. Development of the SRWRS will be consistent with the following principles:

- Satisfying requirements stipulated in Public Law 106-554, the congressional authorizing legislation for this study, to complete a feasibility study for a Sacramento River diversion that is consistent with the Water Forum Agreement and includes the following components: (1) Development of a range of reasonable options, (2) an environmental evaluation, and (3) consultation with Federal and state resource management agencies regarding potential impacts and mitigation measures. Furthermore, the Congress requires the SRWRS to be developed in coordination with CALFED.

- Observing existing applicable laws, regulations, water rights, contracts and legal agreements, and Federal planning guidelines, including, but not limited to, NEPA, "Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies," guidelines, CEQA, California Water Laws, obligations of the cost-sharing partners in their charters, and as defined in California laws.

- Minimizing overall impact on the environment to the extent feasible, being cost-effective, and complementing and enhancing the overall reliability of the Placer-Sacramento region's water supply system through increased interconnectivity and source redundancy.

The SRWRS plan will be consistent with the Water Forum Agreement in pursuing a Sacramento River diversion to accomplish the following objectives envisioned in the agreement: (1) Meeting the needs of planned future growth within the Placer-Sacramento region, (2) maintaining a reliable water supply while reducing diversions of surface water from the American River in future dry years to preserve the river ecosystem, and (3) enhancing groundwater conjunctive management to help sustain the quality and availability of groundwater for the future.

#### Project Alternatives

The proposed project (Elkhorn Diversion alternative) encompasses constructing a joint diversion from the Sacramento River and treatment facilities to serve the cost-sharing partners. The diversion facility would consist of expanding the existing Elkhorn Diversion owned by the Natomas Mutual Water Company (NMWC) on the east bank of the Sacramento River, upstream of the mouth of the American River at approximately river mile 73.3, or constructing a new diversion near the existing Elkhorn Diversion. Water