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**THE STATE WATER PROJECT DELIVERY  
RELIABILITY REPORT 2005, DWR APRIL 2006,  
COVER, FOREWORD AND PAGES 1, 2 AND 23**

# **The State Water Project Delivery Reliability Report 2005**

**Final**

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# Foreword

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is issuing this report to update information presented in the first report of this series, *The State Water Project Delivery Reliability Report 2002*, which was finalized in 2003 after an extensive public review. A draft of the *The State Water Project Delivery Reliability Report 2005* underwent a 30-day public review during November and December 2005. The information contained in this update was recommended by DWR in May 2005 for use by SWP water supply contractors in developing their 2005 Urban Water Management Plans.

*The SWP Delivery Reliability Report 2002* and *The SWP Delivery Reliability Report 2005* are based upon analyses using a computer simulation model, CalSim II. Public criticism of this analytical approach centers on two areas: the ability of CalSim II to simulate “real world” conditions and accurately estimate SWP deliveries; and the inability of the approach to account for future uncertainties such as changes in the climate pattern or levee failure in the Delta due to flooding or an earthquake. While no model is perfect, DWR is satisfied with the degree to which CalSim II simulates actual, real-world operations of the SWP. When professional judgment is used with the knowledge of the limitations of CalSim II and the assumptions used in the studies, CalSim II is a useful tool in assessing the delivery reliability of the SWP. The studies and peer review related to CalSim II are discussed in Chapter 3 and Appendix E of this update.

Although the estimates contained in *The SWP Delivery Reliability Report 2005* are the best quantifications available of the delivery ability of the SWP, these estimates are limited because of the uncertainty of future conditions. DWR will continue to use the CalSim II model and its updates as appropriate for analyses, but other information is being developed that will help us analyze, understand, and prepare for our uncertain future. Per the Governor’s directive (Executive Order S-3-05), the potential impacts of climate change on the State’s resources, including water supply, are being evaluated. Using CalSim II, preliminary estimates have been done of the potential impact upon the SWP 50 to 100 years in the future if no additional conveyance facilities or upstream reservoirs are built. As these estimates become more refined, they will be helpful in guiding strategies for the management and development of the State’s water resources, including improvements to the SWP.

In addition, DWR is working on three projects that will improve our ability to make qualitative or quantitative statements about the reliability of conveyance across the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. These include: the Delta Risk Management Strategy, which will assess risks to the Delta from floods, seepage, subsidence, and earthquakes, evaluate the consequences of levee failure, and develop recommendations to manage the risk; implementation of AB 1200 (Laird, 2005) which calls for a similar evaluation of impacts on water supplies from catastrophic Delta failure; and a broader public process to develop a shared vision of a sustainable Delta that continues to support societal needs related to water supply, transportation, recreation, land use, energy, and environmental health. Although none of these efforts will be completed before release of the next Reliability Report, some preliminary results and conclusions may be completed. Subsequent Reliability Reports will fully incorporate this information.

The updated SWP delivery estimates are summarized in Chapter 5. Chapter 6 contains examples of how to incorporate this information into a local water supply assessment. These examples are based upon examples contained in the *Draft Guidelines for Documentation and Integration of SWP Supplies with UWMPs*, which will soon be released by DWR for public review. These draft guidelines are designed to assist SWP urban contractors in estimating the amount of SWP supplies available to them and in integrating the SWP supply information with information from other sources of supply to develop an overall assessment of each contractor’s total water portfolio. For additional information on the *Draft Guidelines*, contact the Office of Water Use Efficiency and Transfers at (916) 651-7027. DWR’s Bay-Delta Office may be contacted at (916) 653-1099 with questions about other aspects of *The SWP Delivery Reliability Report 2005*.



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# Chapter 1.

## Introduction

Will there be enough water? Public officials throughout California face this question with increasing frequency as growth and competing uses strain existing resources. Water supply, however, has always been an uncertain and contentious matter in our state. For many years, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has investigated this question. At its simplest level, the question might be, “How many wells are needed for a rural town’s water supply?” or “How many people can a 100,000 acre-foot reservoir serve?” But for most areas of the state, the evaluation of water supply adequacy is not simple. The answer requires a complex analysis, taking into account multiple sources of water, a range of water demands, the timing of water uses, hydrology, available facilities, regulatory restraints, levels of demand management (water conservation) strategies, and, of course, future weather patterns.

Most water users in California live in areas that rely on multiple sources of water supply, some local and some imported. Typically, local water providers “mix and match” their supply sources to maximize water supply and quality and to minimize cost. In addition to considering available sources of supply, local water providers are planning for ways to improve the efficiency of local water uses and the operation of their water management systems. To help with this effort, DWR presents 25 different resource management strategies available to local agencies and governments and private utilities in the *California Water Plan Update 2005* (see website at <http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov>).

### Purpose

*The State Water Project Delivery Reliability Report 2005* presents DWR’s current information regarding the annual water delivery reliability of the State Water Project (SWP) for existing and future levels of development in the water

source areas, assuming historical patterns of precipitation. This report first looks at the general subject of water delivery reliability and then discusses how DWR determines delivery reliability for the SWP. A discussion of the analysis tool (the CalSim II computer simulation model), the analyses, and peer review regarding the accuracy of CalSim II and its suitability for use in this report is included. Finally, estimates of SWP delivery reliability today and in the future are provided along with examples of how to incorporate this information into local water management plans.

This report responds to a requirement in the settlement agreement<sup>1</sup> with the Planning and Conservation League to provide an assessment of the existing delivery capability of the SWP over a range of hydrologic conditions. The range of conditions is to include the historic extended dry cycle and the long-term average. In addition, the biennial report is to include the total amount of project water delivered and the amount of project water delivered to each contractor for each of the 10 years immediately preceding the report (see Appendix D, Recent SWP Deliveries).

*The State Water Project Delivery Reliability Report 2005* does not include analyses of how specific water agencies should integrate SWP water supply into their water supply equation. That topic requires extensive information about local facilities, local water resources, and local water use, which is beyond the scope of this report. Moreover, such an analysis would require decisions about water supply and use that traditionally have been made at the local level. DWR believes that local officials should continue to fill this role. The examples provided in Chapter 6 are included to help local agencies incorporate the information presented in this report into local water management assessments.

<sup>1</sup> *Planning and Conservation League v. Department of Water Resources* (2000) 83 Cal. App. 4<sup>th</sup> 892



## Background

The original *SWP Delivery Reliability Report* was issued as a draft in August 2002. In 2002, DWR held six public meetings throughout the state to discuss the report and receive comments upon the content. The final *SWP Delivery Reliability Report* was released in early 2003. *The State Water Project Delivery Reliability Report 2005* is an update to the report issued in 2003. DWR intends to publish biennial updates of the *SWP Delivery Reliability Report* in the future.

The SWP supplies two-thirds of the state's population with a portion of its water supply and provides water to irrigate, in part, 750,000 acres of agriculture. The SWP delivers water under long-term contracts to 29 public water agencies throughout the state. They, in turn, either deliver water to water wholesalers or retailers or deliver it directly to agricultural and urban water users.

The water delivery reliability of the SWP is of direct interest to those who use SWP supplies because it is an important element of the overall water supply in those areas. Local supply reliability is of key importance to local planners and local government officials who are responsible for planning for future growth while assuring that an adequate and affordable water supply is available for the existing population and businesses. This function is usually conducted in the course of preparing a water management plan such as the Urban Water Management Plans required by Water Code section 10610. The information in this report may be used by local agencies in preparing or amending their water management plans and identifying the new facilities or

programs that may be necessary to meet future water demands.

Local agencies and governments and private utilities will also find in this report information that is useful in conducting analyses mandated by laws requiring water retailers to demonstrate whether their water supplies are sufficient for certain proposed subdivisions and development projects subject to the California Environmental Quality Act. DWR published the *Guidebook for Implementation of Senate Bill 610 and Senate Bill 221 of 2001*, which includes suggestions on how local water suppliers can integrate supplies from various sources, such as the SWP, into their analyses. DWR has also published the *Guidebook to Assist Water Suppliers in the Preparation of a 2005 Urban Water Management Plan*, which includes suggestions on how local water suppliers can integrate supplies from other sources such as the SWP in their analyses. Both documents can be found on the DWR's Office of Water Use Efficiency home page at <http://www.owue.water.ca.gov>.

The *Draft Guidelines for Documentation and Integration of SWP Supplies with UWMPs* will soon be released for public review. These guidelines are designed to assist SWP urban contractors in determining the amount of SWP supplies available to them. Using the information in this report (*SWP Delivery Reliability Report 2005*), these guidelines explain how to integrate the SWP supply information with supply information from other sources to develop an overall reliability assessment of each contractor's total water portfolio.

# Chapter 6. Examples of How to Apply Information

The following two examples illustrate how to use the information presented in this report to develop water supply assessments for a hypothetical SWP contractor. Hypothetical examples illustrating applications of the delivery probability curves and adjustments to the data for a SWP contractor that cannot convey its maximum Table A amount are provided in *The State Water Project Delivery Reliability Report 2002*. Questions regarding the use of the information contained in these reports may be directed to the Department of Water Resources' Bay-Delta Office at (916) 653-1099.

## Example 1

This example uses data directly from Table 5-4 for studies 4 and 5, and employs an allocation methodology that provides a simple means of estimating supplies to each contractor. The data in the table is interpolated for 5-year increments and contained in Table 6-1. In all but the average values in Table 6-1, the estimated percentages of Table A deliveries for the 2005 and the 2025 levels of development differ by one percentage point only. Interpolation between these values is shown in this example for illustration purposes. When values are this close, a valid alternative approach would be to use the same percentage value throughout the entire twenty-year period.

Although the percentage values are calculated using the maximum Delta Table A value, they may be directly applied to generate estimates for SWP deliveries for the entire 20-year period. This is because the Delta Table A value for 2005 is 4.114 maf/yr, 99.5 percent of the maximum Delta Table A value of 4.133 maf/yr. For comparison purposes, the percentage values for studies 1 and 4 based upon a full Table A value of 4.113 maf/yr and 4.133 maf/yr are listed in Tables B-3 and B-6. In addition, the percentages may also be used to estimate the Table A deliveries to SWP contractors in Butte and Plumas counties and Yuba City. The deliveries to these contractors would be calculated using the same method described below.

Table 6-1 shows the average percentage of maximum Delta Table A deliveries for average, single-dry year, and 2-, 4-, and 6-year multiple dry year scenarios from 2005 to 2025 in five-year increments. The maximum Table A amounts of each contractor are listed in Appendix C. Note that Table A amounts can be amended and a contractor's Table A amount over the next 20 years may be less than its maximum over some or all of this period. In this case, the contractor should use the amended Table A amounts for the corresponding years during this period. To use dry years other than those presented in Table 6-1, or to show year-to-year supplies instead of

**Table 6-1 SWP average and dry year Table A delivery from the Delta in five-year intervals for studies 4 and 5**

| Year | SWP Table A delivery from the Delta (in percent of maximum Table A) |                            |                                |                                |                                |                                 |
|------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|      | Average<br>1922-1994  | Single<br>dry year<br>1977 | 2-year<br>drought<br>1976-1977 | 4-year<br>drought<br>1931-1934 | 6-year<br>drought<br>1987-1992 | 6-year<br>drought 1929-<br>1934 |
| 2005 | 68%   | 4%                         | 41%                            | 32%                            | 42%                            | 37%                             |
| 2010 | 70%   | 4%                         | 41%                            | 32%                            | 42%                            | 37%                             |
| 2015 | 73%   | 4%                         | 41%                            | 33%                            | 42%                            | 37%                             |
| 2020 | 75%   | 4%                         | 41%                            | 33%                            | 42%                            | 37%                             |
| 2025 | 77%   | 5%                         | 40%                            | 33%                            | 42%                            | 38%                             |