

Groundwater Substitution

Issue No. 9 - DRAFT Streamflow Depletion Due to Groundwater Pumping/Well Review

Background

The goal of these recommendations is to ensure that other legal users of water are not harmed and to expedite the review of water transfer proposals. For reference, consider that the goals of addressing this issue continue to maximize the transferable water produced by transfer wells and to minimize adverse effects to the environment.

Recommendations for 2010

- Where DWR, USBR and stakeholder technical staffs determine it is appropriate, allow estimates of stream flow depletion calculated by hydrologic models to determine the amount of transferable water that was provided by a seller.
 - This should only apply in areas where hydrologic models exist and those models have run scenarios of transfer operations that were set up in consultation with DWR and USBR staff.
 - In these situations, wells will be accepted for use in the transfer only if the well was represented in the model.
- Continue to require well construction data for wells participating in transfers.
- Where monitoring and modeling information is not available, continue to use the mitigation criteria for groundwater detailed in the Environmental Water Account EIS/EIR (*list these criteria*) to identify wells suitable for transfers.
- Where monitoring and modeling information is not available, assume that stream flow losses due to groundwater pumping for transfers are 12% of the amount pumped.

Recommendations for Long-Term Transfers

- Run groundwater models in the spring of the year following transfers. Report on model results and meet with SWP and CVP contractors and buyers and sellers to discuss.
- Develop ability in DWR and USBR to run simulations on SacFEM.
- Develop ability in DWR and USBR to run simulations on Sacramento County's IGSM hydrologic model

- Continue to fund consultants to run transfer scenarios on hydrologic models of the Sacramento Valley.
- Continue efforts to incorporate modeling data into models.

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