# REPORT

**DATE:** July 7, 2005

**TO:** Energy and Environment Committee
Regional Council

**FROM:** Daniel E. Griset, Senior Regional Planner, (213) 236-1895, griset@scag.ca.gov

**SUBJECT:** Policy Guidance for Implementation of the 2005 California Water Plan

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve Resolution 05-465-1 in support of the Draft 2005 California Water Plan.

**BACKGROUND:**

In recent years the State Department of Water Resources has periodically issued an updated version of Bulletin 160, a document that is now called the 2005 California Water Plan. After an extensive time of preparation, this Plan has been updated in draft form and has been released for public comment. The current draft Plan proposes a roadmap for meeting the state's 2030 water demands with two key initiatives: the use of *integrated regional water management* and *the improvement and maintenance of current state water management systems*. These proposed initiatives draw heavily on water use efficiency, water quality protection and environmental stewardship.

Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

The Plan urges the formation of regional partnerships, the development of integrated regional water management plans and the diversification of regional water portfolios. This regional strategy is intended to "ensure sustainable water resource use, better water quality, environmental stewardship, efficient urban development, protection of agriculture, and a strong economy". This integrated regional path would include plans to reduce water demand, improve operational efficiency and transfers, increase water supply, improve water quality and practice resource stewardship.

The IRWM initiative has been developed with the following principles:

- Use a broad, long-term perspective
- Identify broad benefits, costs, and tradeoffs
- Promote sustainable resource management

- Increase regional self-sufficiency
- Increase regional drought preparedness
- Use open forums that include all communities
- Promote coordination and collaboration among local agencies and governments
- Use sound science, best data, and local knowledge

The Maintenance and Improvement of Current Statewide Water Management Systems

This initiative is intended to create more reliable water supplies, improve drought and flood management and sustain the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The complex water supply system in California is aging and needs timely maintenance and rehabilitation: the State Water Project is over 30 years old; the federal Central Valley Project is over 50 years old. In various locales, other parts of the system are over 100 years old.

Facilities are the key to improved water management in California. Statewide there are more than 1,200 reservoirs, as well as canals, treatment plants and levees, each managed by federal, state or local authorities. "Systems are often interconnected. The operation of one system can depend on the smooth operation of another. The successful operation of the complete system can be vulnerable if any parts fail."

Of greatest importance are those facilities that supply drinking water, sewage treatment, water delivery and flood control.

The CalFed Bay-Delta Program has been successful in bringing various interests together to develop comprehensive plans for restoring ecological conditions and levee integrity in the Delta, as well as improving water supply reliability and quality for water users around the state. The Plan urges implementation of the CalFed Program, though there is now considerable debate about what the actual level of funding may be for implementing the Program. As this issue of funding is resolved there will be related priorities set for implementation. The allocation of costs for the Program will certainly shape its future prospects and direction.

The improvement of flood management is highlighted in the Plan, especially as it relates to deteriorating flood control facilities in the Central Valley. With the combined effects of growth in housing and industry and the decline in funding for maintenance and rehabilitation of these facilities, new strategies are recommended: improved maintenance, system rehabilitation, better emergency response, sustainable funding for management of programs, better flood mapping and public education. The Plan urges the integration of these efforts with ecosystem restoration, farmland protection and other multi-benefit management of floodplains.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** All work related to the recommended staff action is contained within the adopted FY 04/05 budget under 05-320 and within the FY 05/06 budget under 06-075. HC

DOCS #111441v2

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**Orange County Transportation Authority:** Lou Correa, County of Orange

**Riverside County Transportation Commission:** Robin Lowe, Hemet

**Ventura County Transportation Commission:** Keith Millhouse, Moorpark

559-5/24/05

# RESOLUTION No. 05-465-1

## A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE DRAFT 2005 CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN

**WHEREAS**, the following policy recommendations have been proposed in the 2005 Draft California Water Plan, otherwise known as Bulletin 160:

1. California needs to invest in reliable, high quality, sustainable, and affordable water conservation, efficient water management, and development of water supplies to protect public health, and to maintain and improve California's economy, environment and standard of living.
2. State government must provide incentives and assist regional and local agencies and government and private utilities to prepare integrated resources and drought contingency plans on a watershed basis; to diversify their regional resource management strategies; and to empower them to implement their plans.
3. State government must lead an effort with local agencies and governments to inventory, evaluate, and propose management strategies to remediate the causes and effects of contaminants on surface and groundwater quality.
4. California needs to rehabilitate and maintain its aging water infrastructure, especially drinking water and sewage treatment facilities, operated by State, federal and local entities.
5. State government must continue to provide leadership for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program to ensure continued and balanced progress on greater water supply reliability, water quality, ecosystem restoration and levee system integrity.
6. State government needs to take the lead in water planning and management activities that: (a) regions cannot accomplish on their own, (b) the State can do more efficiently, (c) involve inter-regional, inter-state, or international issues, or (d) have broad public benefits.
7. California need to define and articulate the respective roles, authorities, and responsibilities of State, federal and local agencies and governments responsible for water.
8. California needs to develop broad and realistic funding strategies that define the role of public investments for water and other water-related resource needs over the next quarter century.
9. State government should invest in research and development to help local agencies and governments implement promising water technologies more cost effectively.
10. Sate government should help predict and prepare for the effects of global climate change on our water resources and water management systems.
11. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) and other State agencies should improve data, analytical tools, and information management needed to prepare, evaluate and implement regional integrated rsource plans and programs in cooperation with other federal, tribal, local and research entities.

12. DWR and other State agencies should explicitly consider public trust values in the planning and allocation of water resources and protect public trust uses whenever feasible.
13. DWR and other State agencies should invite, encourage, and assist tribal government representatives to participate in statewide, regional and local water planning processes and to access State funding for water projects.
14. DWR and other State agencies should encourage and assist representatives from disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations, and the local agencies and private utilities serving them, to participate in statewide, regional and local water planning processes and to get equal access to State funding for water projects.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) that SCAG does hereby support these policy recommendations and urges federal, state and other public entities to cooperate in funding and implementing the 2005 California Water Plan;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that SCAG supports the use of regional water initiatives for creating new local water resources and increasing needed water reliability within the watersheds of southern California.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the [vote] of the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments at a regular meeting on this 7th day of July, 2005.

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Toni Young
President, SCAG
Councilmember, City of Port Hueneme

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Mark Pisano
Executive Director, SCAG

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Karen Tachiki
Chief Legal Counsel, SCAG

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