

Bay Area Water Sustainability Forum

Concept Summary

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Purpose: Provide a venue for water districts, local governments, environmental, business and community interest groups, among others, to address short- and long-term Bay Area water resources issues, and the sustainability, enhancement or augmentation of those resources.

Functions: One major function of the Forum is to provide an opportunity for participants to explore key water resources issues, understand the perspectives and critical interests of other groups, and discuss potential solutions to identified issues or problems. The second major function of the Forum is to work cooperatively to develop policies and projects that translate into effective actions which benefit Bay Area water resources.

Participation: The Forum would be open to all governmental jurisdictions and agencies, organizations and interest groups, and individuals with an interest in Bay Area water resources issues, and who are interested and willing to work together in an interactive, cooperative manner.

Issues: Issues to be addressed by the Forum could include any aspect of water resources relevant to the Bay Area, such as integrated regional water resources planning, water supply, drought protection, environmental needs, among others.

Governance: The Forum will operate on voluntary participation, with no membership or voting. The Forum will be consensus-seeking, meaning it will attempt to reach consensus on any policy, project or other initiative it seeks to pursue. This approach suggests efforts will be made to identify mutually beneficial solutions to policy, technical or other issues addressed by the group. Should consensus not be attained, however, the lack of consensus will not prohibit participants from advancing issues and outcomes they feel are important to their constituency.

Relationship with Other Groups: The Forum is an outgrowth of the ABAG-CalFed Task Force. The Task Force will remain as an ongoing opportunity for elected officials from local governments and water districts to meet and work together on issues they deem important. Presumably, the Forum and the Task Force will work hand-in-hand on issues identified for action. The Forum will also attempt to be aware of the activities of other water-related groups in the Bay Area working on similar issues, and to work with these groups as appropriate.