

CWEMF's

Biological Opinions

Technical Briefing

September 7, 2011



California Water and Environmental Modeling Forum
Promoting Excellence and Consensus in Water and Environmental Modeling

Acknowledgements:

- DWR's Delta Modeling Section for helping to organize this venue
 - Min Yu - a particular thank-you for helping with last minute, above and beyond the “call-of-duty” details
 - Tara Smith, Chief, Delta Modeling Section
- DWR staff for their assistance with the auditorium



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CWEMF's Mission

- The California Water and Environmental Modeling Forum is a non-profit, non-partisan organization whose mission is to increase the usefulness of models for analyzing California's water-related problems. The CWEMF, which was formed in 1994, carries out this mission by:
 - facilitating an open exchange of information on California water issues;
 - resolving technical disagreements in a non-adversarial setting; and
 - ensuring that technical work continues to take into account the needs of stakeholders and decision makers



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CWEMF's Organization

- Website: <http://cwemf.org/>
- Executive Director – Elaine Archibald
- Officers:
 - Convener: Marianne Guerin, Resource Management Associates
 - Vice-Convener: Ben Bray, EBMUD
 - Secretary: George Nichol, SWRCB
 - Treasurer: Stacy Tanaka, Watercourse Engineering



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CWEMF Technical Briefings

- Historically, CWEMF has held:
 - Technical workshops
 - Annual meeting
- Budget problems (State and CWEMF) provided impetus to consider new, shorter format
- Aim of CWEMF's Technical Briefing Series is educational, presenting members and stakeholders background and factual information on timely issues in a non-partisan atmosphere



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Biological Opinions Briefing

- Genesis – small group of CWEMF members met to brainstorm ways to reinvigorate workshops
- IDEA – focus on controversial issues where members would appreciate “big picture” information
- Convener opted for personal interest for first, *i.e.*, BO’s
- Dealing with controversy:
 - Everyone has bias – speakers have been asked to disclose
 - Choosing speakers – BO’s under litigation, so biologists originating the BO’s not considered appropriate





Agenda

Biological Opinion Litigation – Historical Background and the Law

Laurence Kerckhoff, DWR

Salmonid Biological Opinion

Dave Vogel, Natural Resource Scientists, Inc.

Delta Smelt Biological Opinion

Chris Fitzer, AECOM

Operational Effects of the Biological Opinions Using Planning Models

Walter Bourez, MBK Engineers

Modeling Turbidity for the Delta Smelt Biological Opinion

Marianne Guerin, Resource Management Associates

Wrap-Up – Questionnaire, Suggestions on Future Tech Briefings