CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE BULLETIN 160-98

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Pete Wilson
Governor

Douglas P. Wheeler
Secretary for Resources
The Resources Agency

David N. Kennedy
Director
Department of Water Resources

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Foreword

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In 1957, the Department published Bulletin 3, the *California Water Plan*. Bulletin 3 was followed by the Bulletin 160 series, published six times between 1966 and 1993, updating the *California Water Plan*. A 1991 amendment to the California Water Code directed the Department to update the plan every five years. Bulletin 160-98 is the latest in the series. The Bulletin 160 series assesses California's water needs and evaluates water supplies, to quantify the gap between future water demands and water supplies. The series presents a statewide overview of current water management activities and provides water managers with a framework for making decisions.

In response to public comments on the last update, Bulletin 160-93, this 1998 update evaluates water management options that could improve California's water supply reliability. Water management options being planned by local agencies form the building blocks for evaluations performed for each of the State's ten major hydrologic regions. Local options are integrated into a statewide overview that illustrates potential progress in reducing the State's expected future water shortages.

When the previous water plan update was released, California was just emerging from a six-year drought. This update follows the largest and most extensive flood disaster in California's history, the January 1997 floods. These two hydrologic events fittingly illustrate the complexity of water management in the State.

The Department appreciates the assistance provided by the Bulletin 160-98 public advisory committee, which met with the Department over a three-year period as the Bulletin was being prepared. The Department also appreciates the assistance provided by the many local water agencies who furnished information about their planned water management activities.

David N. Kennedy
Director

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Pete Wilson, Governor

THE RESOURCES AGENCY

Douglas P. Wheeler, Secretary for Resources

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

David N. Kennedy, Director

Raymond D. Hart
Deputy Director

Robert G. Potter
Chief Deputy Director

Stephen L. Kashiwada
Deputy Director

L. Lucinda Chipponeri
Assistant Director for Legislation

Susan N. Weber
Chief Counsel

DIVISION OF PLANNING AND LOCAL ASSISTANCE

William J. Bennett, Chief

This Bulletin was prepared under the direction of

Jeanine Jones ..... Chief, Statewide Planning

by

Naser Bateni ..... Former Chief, Water Resources Evaluation
Paul Hutton ..... Chief, Water Resources Evaluation
Waiman Yip ..... Senior Engineer
Bob Zettlemoyer ..... Senior Engineer

assisted by

Barbara Cross
Steve Cowdin
Dan Fua
Tom Hawkins
Ray Hoagland
Scott Matyac
Dick Neal
Virginia Sajac
Clara Silva

with assistance on special topics or studies by

Manucher Alemi
Linton Brown
Randy Brown
Ed Craddock
Baryohay Davidoff
Farhad Farnam
Marla Hambright
Darryl Hayes
Dale Hoffman-Floerke
Steve Kasower
John Kramer
Richard Le
Claire LeFlore
Jim Rich
Maurice Roos
Ray Tom

Data collection and regional information provided by Department District offices

Northern District
Naser Bateni, Chief

assisted by

X. Tito Cervantes
Andrew Corry
Douglas Denton
Todd Hillaire
Glen Pearson
Eugene Pixley

Central District
Karl Winkler, Chief

assisted by

Alan Aguilar
Emil Calzascia
Toccoy Dudley
Al Lind
Ed Morris
Doug Osugi
James Wieking

San Joaquin District
Lou Beck, Chief

assisted by

Jack Erickson
Robert Polgar
David Scruggs
Brian Smith
Arvey Swanson
Ernie Taylor
Iris Yamagata

Southern District
Charles White, Chief

assisted by

Glenn Berquist
Sergio Fierro
David Inouye
Vern Knoop
Kelly Lawler
Michael Maisner
Mark Stuart
Garret Tam Sing

Editorial, design, and production services were provided by

Nikki Blomquist
John Carter
Teresa Chaney
Mike Miller
Joanne Pierce
Therese Tynan

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Department of Water Resources, Photography Unit
Peter Stoiber, Supervising Photographer

Paul Hames
Norm Hughes
Dale Kolke
Stephen Payer

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The Resources Agency
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CALIFORNIA WATER COMMISSION

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Raymond E. Barsch, Executive Officer

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