DISCUSSION PAPER
FOR
CRITICAL WATER PLANNING AREAS

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES FOR IDENTIFYING CRITICAL WATER PLANNING AREAS

Critical water planning areas are comprised of significant hydrologic units where existing or future demands exceed or threaten to exceed the safe yield of available resources.

3112(D) Designation of Critical Water Planning Areas and Preparation and Approval of Critical Water Resource Plans

(1) Critical Water Planning Areas shall be identified as provided under subsection (A)(6). A Regional Committee may, in advance of the formal adoption of a Regional Plan or the State Water Plan and if justified by evidence developed in the planning process, recommend the designation of a critical water planning area. Upon such recommendation, the Statewide Committee and Secretary may designate the area for the development of a critical area resource plan for any watershed or watersheds within a critical water planning area pursuant to this subsection.

Draft justification/criteria for recommending Critical Water Planning Areas:

1. Minimum area – What minimum size area should be considered?

2. Demand/Use
   a. Planning horizon/timeframe – 15, 20, 25, 30, 50 years?
   b. Population Projections
   c. Demand Projections – methods?
   d. Use – Priority, seasonality, interruptibility?
   e. Consumptive Use – coefficients?
   f. Water Conservation – Guidelines?
   g. Instream Flow Criteria – IFIM-based (including PA-IFM), standards setting methods, warm-water vs. cold-water streams, hydrologic index methods?
3. Safe yield
   a. Surface Water – $Q_{10}$, $Q_{50}$, 50-yr Drought, Drought of Record, Exceedence flow (drought standards), period-of-use linked?
   b. Ground Water – 1-in-25 year annual base flow (DRBC), surface-water linked?
   c. Storm-water recharge
   d. Storage
   e. Conjunctive Use
   f. Inter-watershed transfers – SWP policy, SRBC policy, DRBC policy