

# **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 –  $Q_{7-10}$ ,  $Q_{7-50}$ , 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