



SAN FRANCISCO Public Utilities Commission



BAY AREA REGIONAL DESALINATION PROJECT PRELIMINARY DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

FACT SHEET

PURPOSE

The Bay Area’s four largest water agencies that collectively serve 5.4 million people, the Contra Costa Water District, the East Bay Municipal Utility District, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District, are jointly studying development of regional desalination facilities. The Bay Area Regional Desalination Project would consist of one or more facilities, with an estimated capacity range of 20 to 71 million gallons per day (mgd), depending on the final number and location of the facilities. Grant funding is sought for environmental review and preliminary design for the Project.

PROJECT GOALS AND BENEFITS

- Provide additional source of water during emergencies such as earthquakes or levee failures.
- Provide a supplemental water supply source during extended droughts.
- Allow other major facilities, such as treatment plants, water pipelines, and pump stations, to be taken out of service for maintenance or repairs.
- Increase water supply reliability for multiple agencies through the sharing of a regional facility.
- Minimize environmental effects by leveraging existing facilities and regional interties.

PROJECT STATUS

Technical studies conducted in 2005 identified three locations in the Bay Area where a regional desalination facility could be located (see attached figure). A 6-month pilot test was completed in April 2009 at Contra Costa Water District’s Mallard Slough Pump Station which confirmed the technical viability of the project.

PROJECT COSTS

Technical study costs to date (\$2.5 million) were equally divided between the four proponents and California grant funds. The \$4 million in federal assistance (WRDA 2007) is vital to the continued development of this project. This federal assistance will support the environmental review, public outreach, and preliminary design necessary to implement the Project.

Preliminary capital cost estimates for a regional desalination facility depend on the capacity and location of facilities with a minimum cost estimate of \$150 million for an initial phase 20 mgd capacity plant. Project construction would be phased and could occur at multiple locations.

PROJECT MILESTONES

COMPLETION DATE

Pre-Feasibility Studies (COMPLETE)	2003 and 2005
Engineering Study (COMPLETE)	2007
Pilot Testing (COMPLETE)	2009
Preliminary Design	2011
Environmental Study	2012
Design	2013
Construction	2015

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PROJECT PARTNERS:

Contra Costa Water District

Mr. Walter J. Bishop
General Manager
1331 Concord Avenue
PO Box H2O
Concord, CA 94524
(925) 688-8034
wbishop@ccwater.com

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Mr. Edward Harrington
General Manager
1155 Market Street, 11th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 554-3160
eharrington@sflower.org

East Bay Municipal Utility District

Mr. Dennis M. Diemer
General Manager
P.O. Box 24055, MS 804
Oakland, CA 94623-1055
(510) 287-0101
dennisd@ebmud.com

Santa Clara Valley Water District

Mr. Beau Goldie
Chief Executive Officer
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118-3614
(408) 265-2600
bgoldie@valleywater.org