

CHAPTER XIV. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Legend: Y=yes ?=maybe N=no

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| 1. EARTH. Will the proposal result in: | |
| a. Unstable earth conditions or in changes in geologic substructures? | N |
| b. Disruptions, displacements, compaction, or overcovering of the soil? | N |
| c. Change in topography or ground surface relief features? | ? |
| d. The destruction, covering, or modification of any unique geologic or physical features? | N |
| e. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site? | ? |
| f. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands, or changes in siltation, deposition, or erosion which may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed of the ocean or any bay, inlet, or lake? | N |
| g. Exposure of people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground failure, or similar hazards? | N |
| 2. AIR. Will the proposal result in: | |
| a. Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality? | ? |
| b. The creation of objectionable odors? | N |
| c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally? | N |
| 3. WATER. Will the proposal result in: | |
| a. Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters? | Y |
| b. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff? | N |
| c. Alterations in the course or flow of flood waters? | N |
| d. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body? | Y |
| e. Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen, or turbidity? | Y |
| f. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground water? | Y |
| g. Change in quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations? | Y |
| h. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies? | Y |
| i. Exposure of people or property to water-related hazards such as flooding or tidal waves? | N |

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST (CONTINUED)

Legend: Y=yes ?=maybe N=no

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| 4. PLANT LIFE. Will the proposal result in: | |
| a. Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species, of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)? | ? |
| b. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species of plants? | ? |
| c. Introduction of new species of plants into an area, or in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species? | N |
| d. Reduction of acreage of any agricultural crop? | Y |
| 5. ANIMAL LIFE. Will the proposal result in: | |
| a. Change in the diversity of species, or numbers of any species, of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, or insects)? | ? |
| b. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, threatened, or endangered species? | ? |
| c. Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals? | N |
| d. Deterioration to existing fish or wildlife habitat? | N |
| 6. NOISE. Will the proposal result in: | |
| a. Increases in existing noise levels? | N |
| b. Exposure of people to severe noise levels? | N |
| 7. LIGHT AND GLARE. Will the proposal produce new light or glare? | N |
| 8. LAND USE. Will the proposal result in a substantial alteration of the present or planned use of an area? | Y |
| 9. NATURAL RESOURCES. Will the proposal result in an increase in the rate of use of any natural resources? | Y |
| 10. RISK OF UPSET. Will the proposal involve: | |
| a. A risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset condition? | N |
| b. Possible interference with an emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan? | N |
| 11. POPULATION. Will the proposal alter the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area? | ? |
| 12. HOUSING. Will the proposal affect existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing? | N |
| 13. TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION. Will the proposal result in: | |
| a. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement? | N |
| b. Effects on existing parking facilities, or demand for new parking? | N |
| c. Substantial effect on existing transportation systems? | N |
| d. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods? | N |

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST (CONTINUED)

Legend: Y=yes ?=maybe N=no

e. Alterations to waterborne, air, or rail traffic?	Y
f. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians?	N
14. PUBLIC SERVICES. Will the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for, new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas:	
a. Fire protection?	N
b. Police protection?	N
c. Schools?	N
d. Parks or other recreational facilities?	?
f. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?	N
g. Other governmental services?	N
15. ENERGY. Will the proposal result in:	
a. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy?	?
b. Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources of energy?	?
16. UTILITIES. Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:	
a. Sewerage?	N
b. Water?	?
c. Electricity?	?
d. Natural gas?	N
e. Telephone?	N
17. HUMAN HEALTH. Will the proposal result in:	
a. Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)?	N
b. Exposure of people to potential health hazards?	N
18. AESTHETICS. Will the proposal result in the obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public, or will the proposal result in the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?	?
19. RECREATION. Will the proposal result in an impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities?	Y
20. CULTURAL RESOURCES.	
a. Will the proposal result in the alteration or the destruction of a prehistoric or historic archaeological site?	N
b. Will the proposal result in adverse physical or aesthetic effects to a prehistoric or historic building, structure, or object?	N
c. Does the proposal have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values?	N
d. Will the proposal restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?	N

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST
Responses to "Yes" and "Maybe" answers:

1. **EARTH.** Will the proposal result in:

- c. Change in topography or ground surface relief features? "Maybe"

The project may result in changes in agricultural practices in certain areas which could possibly change the topography or ground surface relief features. Increased groundwater withdrawals or overdraft may result in local occurrences of land subsidence.

- e. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?
"Maybe"

Reductions and greater fluctuations of reservoir pool levels may increase wind and water erosion around the rims of reservoirs. Also, the project may result in an increase in the abandonment of agricultural areas which may increase wind erosion of soils.

2. **AIR.** Will the proposal result in:

- a. Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality? "Maybe"

The project will result in a decrease in the availability of water for hydroelectric power generation which may result in the need for alternative electrical power generation from the combustion fossil fuels. This could result in the deterioration of local ambient air quality.

3. **WATER.** Will the proposal result in:

- a. Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters? "Yes"

The project will result in changes in the magnitude and timing of freshwater outflow in the Delta which may result in changes in the course or direction of water movements. In rivers, the project could affect flows as a result of changes in reservoir operation, changes in runoff, return flows, wastewater discharge, or drainage to the rivers.

- d. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body? "Yes"

The project will result in changes in the levels of the reservoirs and rivers both upstream of the Delta and in export areas.

- e. Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen, or turbidity?
"Yes"

The project will result in alterations of surface water quality parameters such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and salinity in the rivers and in the Delta by changing the magnitude of flows at different times of the year. In addition, there is the possibility that the project will result in higher levels of total dissolved solids in surface waters in the export areas due to decreased availability of higher quality Delta water for blending with local lower quality water.

- f. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground water? "Yes"

The project will result in a reduction in the amount of surface water applied in some areas of the State, thus, resulting in less percolation to the ground water table. This will result in a change of direction or rate of flow of ground water.

- g. Change in quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations?
"Yes"

The project will result in changes in the quantity of ground water through an increase in groundwater withdrawals.

- h. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies? "Yes"

There will be a decrease in water available for export from the Delta, the amount depending on water year type. The agencies that export water will need to determine how that water will be distributed. Generally, more water is exported for irrigation than for municipal use. It is likely that municipal water supplies will be met first and that irrigation supplies will be reduced.

4. PLANT LIFE. Will the proposal result in:

- a. Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species, of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)? "Maybe"

The project may result in a change in the types of crops grown in some parts of the State.

- b. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species of plants? "Maybe"

The project will reduce water supplies to export areas, depending on water year type, which may affect water supplies to water districts in the export areas. The decisions of local water agencies will determine local water management and operations and, therefore, whether or not the habitat of special-status plant species in the export areas will be affected.

- d. Reduction of acreage of any agricultural crop? "Yes"

The project will result in the reduction in the acreage of some agricultural crops in parts of the State.

5. ANIMAL LIFE. Will the proposal result in:

- a. Change in the diversity of species, or numbers of any species, of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, or insects)? "Maybe"

The project will reduce water supplies to export areas, depending on water year type, which may affect water supplies to water districts in the export areas. The decisions of local water agencies will determine local water management and operations and, therefore, whether or not the diversity and numbers of animals in the export areas will be adversely affected.

- b. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, threatened, or endangered species? "Maybe"

The project will reduce water supplies to export areas, depending on water year type, which may affect water supplies to water districts in the export areas. The decisions of local water agencies will determine local water management and operations and, therefore, whether or not the habitat of special-status animal species in the export areas will be affected.

- 8. LAND USE.** Will the proposal result in a substantial alteration of the present or planned use of an area? "Yes"

The project will result in an alteration of agricultural areas.

- 9. NATURAL RESOURCES.** Will the proposal result in an increase in the rate of use of any natural resources? "Yes"

The project will result in an increase in the release of stored water from upstream reservoirs, an increase in the use of ground water, and, possibly, an increase in the burning of fossil fuels for power generation.

11. **POPULATION.** Will the proposal alter the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area? "Maybe"

If the project results in a change in distribution of municipal water supplies, it could result in changes in the location, density, or growth rate of the human population in the areas where such a change in water supply may occur.

13. **TRANSPORTATION.** Will the proposal result in:

- e. Alterations to waterborne, air, or rail traffic? "Yes"

The project requires the closure of a Delta channel during specified times. When the channel is closed, waterborne traffic will be altered.

14. **PUBLIC SERVICES.** Will the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for, new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas:

- d. Parks or other recreational facilities? "Maybe"

The project: (1) will result in a change in the water levels of upstream reservoirs and flow in the rivers which may affect parks or other recreational facilities; (2) may affect water supplies that provide water to parks and other recreational facilities; and (3) may affect the use of recreational facilities utilized by those participating in sport fisheries.

15. **ENERGY.** Will the proposal result in:

- a. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy? "Maybe"

The project will result in a decrease in the availability of water for hydroelectric power generation which may result in the need for alternative electrical power generation from the combustion fossil fuels. In addition, although reduced exports will reduce energy demand for export pumping, increased pumping of ground water to replace reduced surface water supplies may result in increased local demands for electricity.

- b. Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources of energy? "Maybe"

The project will result in a decrease in the availability of water for hydroelectric power generation which may result in the need for alternative electrical power generation, including the development of new sources of electricity. In addition, the project will result in increased groundwater withdrawals which may result in increased demand upon existing sources of energy for groundwater pumping.

16. **UTILITIES.** Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:

b. Water? "Maybe"

The project will result in a change in the amount or allocation of water supplies; therefore, it may result in the need to alter the water distribution system, or result in the need for new systems in the areas where such a change may occur.

c. Electricity? "Maybe"

If the project results in a change in the operation scheme of some multi-purpose reservoirs, it may result in a change in the timing or amount of hydro-electric power generated. The result will require a re-operation or changes in management of the electrical utilities or an augmentation of electrical supplies. Increased pumping of ground water to replace reduced surface water supplies may result in increased local demands for electricity. However, the project also will result in decreased exports which will lower energy requirements to export water.

18. **AESTHETICS.** Will the proposal result in the obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public, or will the proposal result in the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view? "Maybe"

The project may result in changes of the operations of upstream reservoirs which may cause the water levels to be lower for longer periods, reducing the aesthetic values of the reservoir. The project may also result in reduced water availability for irrigation of landscaping in export areas which could reduce the aesthetic qualities of those areas.

19. **RECREATION.** Will the proposal result in an impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities? "Yes"

The project will restrict recreational access to some waterways through Delta Cross Channel gate closure and may: (1) result in a change in the water levels of upstream reservoirs which may affect the quality of or access to recreational facilities or opportunities; and (2) affect sport fisheries both in upstream areas and in the Delta. (See also 14. d.)

21. **MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.**

a. Does the proposal have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a

plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare, threatened, or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? "Maybe"

The project will reduce water supplies to export areas, depending on water year type, which may affect water supplies to water districts in the export areas. The decisions of local water agencies will determine local water management and operations and, therefore, whether or not the proposal has the potential to adversely affect plants or animals in the export areas.

- b. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? "Maybe"

The project will result in increased groundwater withdrawals to replace decreased water supplies. This may result in environmental problems related to groundwater overdraft in the long-term. Additionally, changes in the use of water may occur, such as shifts in crops or land use.

- c. Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? "Maybe"

The project will have an effect on the water supplies in some upstream and export areas; however, how significant those cumulative effects will be will vary by water year type, area, water right type, and water management strategies.

- d. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? "Yes"

The project will have an effect on water supplies in some parts of the State. This will have a direct or indirect effect on people involved directly or indirectly in agriculture, and, to some degree, those dependent on municipal supplies.

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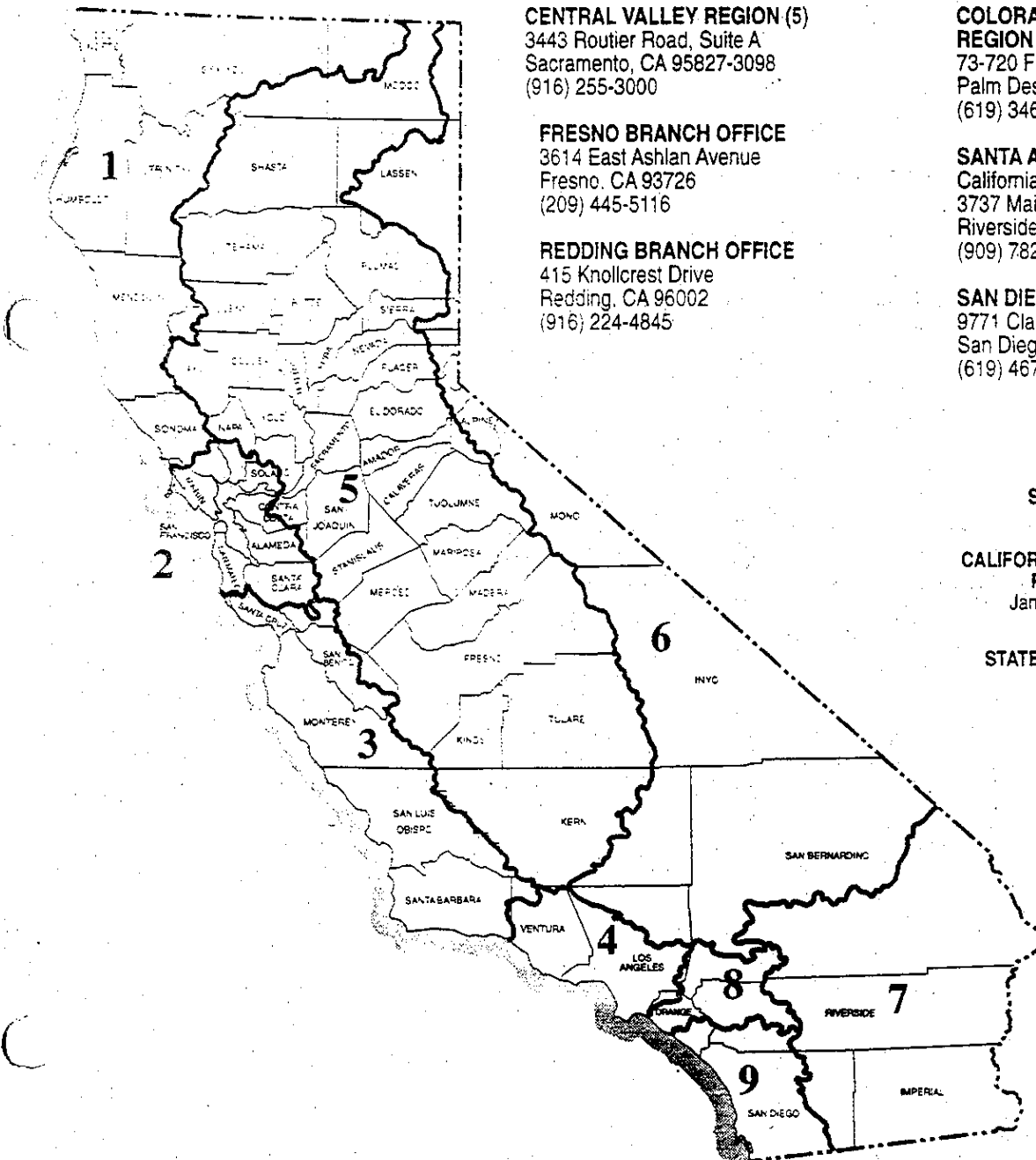
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