



e x l o c o

pathfinding in the new West

Carpe Diem: Western Water & Climate Change

Working List: Western Water Projects Under Consideration

July 2007

Over the past few months, Exloco has been looking at major water projects around the West currently under consideration. This list presents our findings to date - and is intended to provide a wake-up call. The impacts of climate change on water supply, increased competition for water and a private finance investment market awash with cash mean that big water projects are back on the table.

Some of these projects will fail almost immediately, others will linger for years in a state of suspended analysis, and a few may get funded and built. Some may make environmental, economic and engineering sense, and allow for more flexible, equitable and sustainable use of water supply. Other projects move in quite the opposite direction.

This selection is subjective: we highlight mostly large and controversial projects. However, there are probably hundreds of smaller projects (surface, groundwater, transfer, pipeline, desalination and more) also proposed or in construction, which are locally or regionally important.

Comments and additions are welcomed and will be incorporated in new editions of this working list.

- *Steve Malloch & Kimery Wiltshire*

| State | Project | Lead Agency | Estimated Cost | Opposition | Comments |
|-------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| Arizona | Yuma desalination plant. | Bureau of Reclamation | Early projections for \$480-800/AF | Depends on how operations are implemented; either none or enviros & Mexico | \$289M spent to date w/facility still not at full operations |
| Arizona | Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement – various including a dam | | \$2.4Billion | | |
| California | Sites and Temperance Flats (storage) | CDWR | \$6B in g.o. bonds; plus contracts Total unknown | Enviros, local interests | New move by CA Gov to put \$6B bond measure on 11/08 ballot. Senate leader proposing a similar priced initiative to give money directly to local water agencies. |
| California | Peripheral Canal | CDWR | Total unknown | | CA Gov currently promoting canal as a viable option – no financing plan to date. |
| California | Drop 2 Reservoir – Imperial Valley (part of the compact states proposal to Interior) | CDWR/ SNWA Bureau of Reclamation | \$84m initial estimate, costs have doubled since; SNWA financing, possible MWD as well | Enviros, Mexico | Final EA published, BOR has no funds so implementation pending current commitments. |
| California | IID and PVID transfers of water from irrigation to cities | MWD, SDWA and others | | | Ag-Muni water transfer projects. Strong concern about local impacts in IID. |
| Colorado | Yampa Reservoir – proposed by No. Colorado Water Conservancy District - 300KAF supply | NCWCD | \$4 billion | | Very preliminary – initial investigation report 12/06 |

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| Colorado | Flaming Gorge/Green River 400 pipeline along I-80 (The Big Straw is a similar proposal now in remission.) | | \$4 billion | | Proposed private sector project – Aaron Millions 400KAF-165KAF |
| Colorado | Windy Gap Firming project – 90KAF preferred alternative | NCWCD | | | Environmental review – Reclamation lead |
| Idaho | Bear River dam and pipeline | | | TU, Idaho Rivers | See Utah |
| Montana | | | | | |
| Nevada | Coyote Spring Basin pipeline (20 miles from basin to reservoir – part of the compact states proposal to Interior) | SNWA | | | |
| Nevada | Spring Valley pipeline – 250 mile pipeline from 6 rural groundwater basins north of Las Vegas | SNWA | \$2 billion | Great Basin Water Network, Progressive Leadership Alliance | |
| New Mexico | Indian Water rights settlements | | 1.1 billion (includes Navajo) | | |
| New Mexico | Navajo-Gallup Water Supply – part of Navajo water rights settlement. 2 pipelines, 267 miles, 37,760 AF | USBR | \$720 million | | EIS stage. Settlement reached in 2005, now in Congress for approval and funding. |
| Oregon | Oasis Project – drawing 500KAF/year of summer water from the Columbia River for the Umatilla Basin | Umatilla Electric Cooperative | | | Very preliminary, driven in part by desire for parity with Washington’s Columbia River proposals. Stalled in 2007 legislative session. |

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|------------|---|---|-----------------------|--|---|
| Utah | Lake Powell 120 mile pipeline to St. George | State of Utah, Central Iron County Water Conservancy District | \$500 - \$800 million | State of Nevada Vision Dixie (local land planning group) | \$5.6 million allocated by state legislation to water engineer consultants for planning |
| Utah | Bear River Dam/pipeline, 220,000AF annual supply | State of Utah, various water conservancy districts | \$700 million | Utah Rivers Council, TU | Water need projected for 2025-2045. State has allocated funds for preliminary planning |
| Utah | Gooseberry Narrows: 17KAF storage on Price River | BOR Small Projects | | | Stalled? |
| Washington | Possible off-stream water storage envisioned by the Columbia River Bill of 2006 – several sites are under consideration with Crab Creek currently the leading candidate | WA State Department of Ecology | billions | | Part of a balanced bill supported by AmRivers and WEC. Much study in store to demonstrate need. |
| Washington | Black Rock | Bureau of Reclamation | \$2-4 billion | | Primarily supported by local real estate development interests and those wanting cheap ag water. Strong environmental restoration rationale propounded for Yakima River |
| Washington | Lake Tapps – Conversion of a hydropower project to regional water supply | Cascade Water Authority | \$400-480 Million | Tribal, recreational etc. Most issues resolved | Water rights transfer in process, initial bonds sold, initial construction scheduled for fall 2007. |
| Wyoming | Flaming Gorge (see Colorado) | | | | |
| Wyoming | Coal Bed Methane wastewater discharge collection system | Wyoming Pipeline Authority | 100's of millions | | Collects and pipes CBM water to discharge point. |