

Public Involvement Plan Proposed Scope of Work – FY 2001

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Project No.: PIP 12D

Lead Agency: Colorado Water Conservation Board

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Title of Proposal: Public Involvement for Coordinated Facilities Operations

Issue/project: Public information and education is needed to help the public understand the technical and legal complexities involved in the Colorado Water Conservation Board's efforts to identify and secure 20,000 acre-feet of water that could be used for recovery purposes in critical habitat in the Colorado mainstem from coordinated operations of facilities in Colorado.

Background:

A. Affected Publics, Concerns, Needs and Public Activities To Date

- 1. Water Users:** The primary concerns of water users (individuals and their organizational and legal representatives) will be the potential impacts of coordinated facilities operations on existing and potential water supply -- both quantity and how the program will be administered. Strategies should also seek to assure that water users who are involved in and/or affected by coordinated reservoir operations understand this new initiative and have opportunities for input. Past public involvement activities have focused on providing the public information about coordinated facilities.
- 2. Environmental Groups:** Their primary concerns will be whether the coordinated facilities operations can be successfully implemented.

3. **General Public:** Outside of water users, environmental groups and recreationists, this activity and the Recovery Program overall probably is not of widespread concern except for those times when the news media shines a spotlight on a Recovery Program accomplishment or controversy. In this context, the ongoing need related to the coordinated facilities operations will be providing a clear and simple explanation of the complex hydrological, biological and legal aspects of these activities. Past public involvement activities have focused on requesting input from the public on potential impacts of the program.

B. Public Involvement Plan:

Goal: The overall goal of the Recovery Program is to recover the endangered fish while allowing water use and development to continue. The goal of coordinated facilities operations is to inform the public about how this activity complements other activities under the RIP.

1. **Objective:** Work directly with affected publics to educate them about the purpose of coordinated facilities operations and involve them in developing and evaluating the program.
 - Post all documents related to the project on the Colorado Water Conservation Board web site
 - Encourage written input by mail and by e-mail via the Colorado Water Conservation Board web site.
 - Educate all affected publics about coordinated facilities operations through the news media and other communication vehicles.
 - Publicize project progress as appropriate through articles in the Department of Natural Resources newsletter and Recovery Program newsletter.

2. **Evaluation Methodology:** Monitor news coverage of coordinated facilities issues; respond as appropriate.

3. **Recovery Program Agencies and Organizations:** Department of Natural Resources; Colorado Water Conservation Board; Colorado Division of Wildlife

C. Geographic area covered by this public involvement plan:

- Colorado River basin upstream of Grand Junction for targeted public information and education efforts
- Statewide for general media outreach

D. Budget

Labor	\$3,360
Travel	\$1,000
Operating (news kit update printing, folders)	<u>\$1,000</u>
<hr/> TOTAL	\$5,360 (in-kind)