

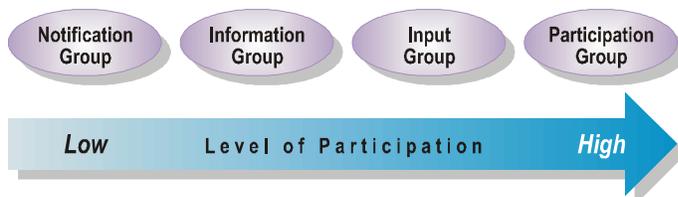
Section 2

Integrated Planning Process

2.1 Public Involvement

The Outreach Plan (included in Appendix A) describes public involvement for the entire Program. Only a subset of the Outreach Plan activities applies to the development of the Plan. The purpose of public involvement for the Plan was multifaceted, and included the following objectives:

- Inform the public regarding the process for - and progress of - Plan development;
- Provide meaningful opportunities for stakeholders and the general public to contribute to the Plan;
- Incorporate public input regarding stakeholder involvement, planning goals and objectives, and issues of concern;
- Document stakeholder recommendations in a clear, complete manner for consideration by DW&RC; and
- Develop and demonstrate stakeholder support and understanding regarding the Plan.



To pursue these objectives, DW&RC recognized the need to match appropriate involvement opportunities and outreach methods with groups targeted for inclusion in the planning process. The groups and individuals

targeted by the Outreach Plan have a range of potential outreach needs. The four categories below present the range of information needs that the Study Team sought to address.

- Notification Group - This group merely needed to know that Plan Development was proceeding. This group included those monitoring the use of funding, those tracking various water resources planning efforts at the state level, and others.
- Information Group - This group included those who wanted to or needed to learn about Plan goals and approach, and was informed regularly regarding the general progress of Plan development.
- Input Group - This group, which provided suggestions regarding Plan development, was given opportunities to learn about - and provide comments on - planning elements, methods, and documents.

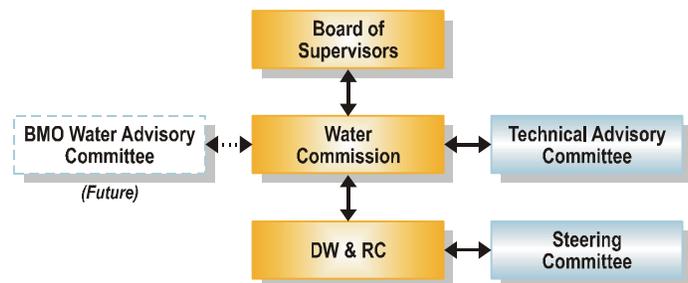
- Participation Group –This group contained groups and individuals with specific knowledge or experience related to the development of Plan elements, and participated in decisions regarding development of planning elements, methods, and documents.

The categories at higher levels of involvement are inclusive of those at more minimal levels of involvement. Those in the input group, for example, have access to public information received by the notification and information groups.

The Outreach Plan (Appendix A) contains a list of groups within the County that are active in water issues, and the Program’s level of outreach for each group. It also includes specific outreach activities (such as improvements to the newsletter and a website) that enable the DW&RC to reach these groups in the appropriate ways.

2.2 Steering Committee Involvement

A Steering Committee was formed from the “participation group” in the Outreach Plan to focus on Plan development. The purpose of this Steering Committee was to work together to assemble and apply knowledge and experience regarding Butte County water resources and develop recommendations for consideration by the Water Commission.



The Steering Committee was composed of a small, focused group of stakeholders, representing a cross-section of interests (agricultural, urban, and environmental), water sources (groundwater and surface water), and service agencies (water districts and independent groundwater pumpers). Table 2-1 lists the Steering Committee members.

Member	Organization
Ray Auerbach	Paradise Irrigation District/Butte County Water Commission
John Carlon	River Partners/ Butte County Water Commission
Ed Craddock	Butte County DW&RC
Mark Lightcap	California Water Service, Chico
Rick Louie ¹	California Department of Water Resources
Mike McEnespy	Northstar Engineering/Butte County Water Commission
Eric Miller	Butte County DW&RC
Mark Montgomery	Butte-Sutter Groundwater Water Users Corporation
Mike Pierce	Butte County Water Commission
Ted Trimble	Western Canal Water District
Barbara Vlamis	Butte Environmental Council

¹Rick Louie attended Steering Committee meetings as an observer.

Other interested parties observed various Steering Committee meetings, including representatives from the Cherokee Watershed Alliance and the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance.

The Steering Committee was asked to:

- Contribute information for the County Board of Supervisors to consider when making decisions;
- Use the meetings as a forum to work cooperatively and to communicate specific concerns;
- Report back to constituents and organizational colleagues on the progress of the planning effort;
- Provide input to the study team on stakeholder issues, concerns and values;
- Assure that all participants' concerns have been documented; and
- Listen courteously to other points of view and consider alternatives before making recommendations.

The Steering Committee met 6 times, from August 2003 through March 2004 to develop this Plan. Figure 2-1, at the end of this section, shows the topics of these meetings and depicts the Steering Committee's decision-making process. The sections below preview the steps in this process, and Sections 4, 5, and 6 include the detailed methodology and results from each step.

2.2.1 Objective Definition and Weighting

Planning objectives describe what the County should achieve with regard to water management. They serve as expressions of the variety of ideas and concerns held by stakeholders, and they provide a reference for evaluation and comparison of packages (see Sections 2.2.2 and 2.2.3).

The Steering Committee selected a set of objectives according to several guidelines. These guidelines stated that objectives should be:

- Unique: to ensure no overlap between objectives;
- Clear: to be easily explainable to the public and policymakers;
- Measurable: to specify the degree to which objectives can be achieved; and
- Complete: to reflect the full range of fundamental reasons to complete the Plan.

The complete set of objectives includes the objectives of all stakeholders, even if these objectives are not shared by the entire group.

Separating “Why” from “How”

When developing the objectives, the Steering Committee had to be very careful to separate “why” from “how.” Planning objectives represent the essential reasons or purposes “why” Butte County DW&RC should undertake the Plan. The planning objectives do not specify “how” DW&RC should move forward. Table 2-2 includes several examples of “why” and “how.”

Why	How
Meet supply needs	Install new well
Improve environmental resources	Decrease pumping near dewatered stream
Improve water quality	Install wastewater treatment facility

“How” the DW&RC can accomplish the planning objectives is included in the Plan’s set of options (Section 2.2.2). The Steering Committee used this guidance to create a complete set of planning objectives, as shown in Figure 2-2 at the end of this section. The primary categories of objectives include local control (indicating the County’s desire to maintain local control of resources), water supply, economy, and natural resources.

Objective Weighting

Some objectives are more important to stakeholders than others. After creating the set of planning objectives, the Steering Committee weighted the objectives to show the relative importance of each objective. The Steering Committee used a process called “dot voting,” in which the objectives were displayed on a large poster, and Steering Committee members “voted” by placing dot-shaped stickers beside the objectives. Each member received twenty dots, or votes, to assign to the objectives. The individual assigned these dots to the objectives that he or she feel are important. The objectives with the most combined dots were the most important according to the group. The resulting weights, shown on Figure 2-3 at the end of this section, reflect the compiled results of the group.



A Steering Committee member places his dot votes on the objectives.

2.2.2 Option Development and Screening

Options represent potential means for accomplishing the planning objectives. In confronting a variety of water management challenges, local and regional agencies, water districts, property owners, and other interested stakeholders have identified numerous potential policies, programs, or projects that could be implemented as solutions. Examining these potential options, exploring the cause and effect relationships associated with each option, and considering the interrelationships among the options is highly instructional in identifying potential policies for the county. Considering how and why an option (or a combination of options) is

successful in meeting planning objectives provides planners and stakeholders a starting point for identifying the ways in which the DW&RC could facilitate problem solving efforts. The Study Team and the Steering Committee used the development and evaluation of options and option packages to identify potential policies, which represent patterns of actions that Butte County can take with respect to integrated resources management. These policies are the ultimate outcome of the planning process described herein; the options are included both to illustrate the development of the policies and to identify the actions that may be accomplished if the policies are approved.

The Study Team developed a preliminary list of options by:

- Asking stakeholders for ideas;
- Examining past County reports;
- Interviewing representatives of DW&RC ; and
- Studying technical data and developing problem-solving ideas.

The Steering Committee reviewed the options and added to the list. Section 4 includes descriptions of the resulting list of options.

The Study Team and Steering Committee screened the options for general feasibility (technical, legal, political, financial, and environmental feasibility). Option screening verified that only feasible options were carried forward for evaluation. Section 4.2 includes more information regarding option screening.

2.2.3 Package Creation and Evaluation

After developing options, the Study Team and Steering Committee combined options into reasonable packages. Packages of options have an increased ability to achieve multiple complementary objectives. The Study Team drafted several initial packages with the intent of solving problems within Butte County (see Section 5.1.1 for a description of the problem statements that served as the basis for these initial packages).

The Steering Committee evaluated these packages of options by comparing how the packages would perform according to the objectives. During this evaluation process, several options within these initial packages clearly performed well related to certain objectives. The Study Team used this information to create a “hybrid package” that combined the high-performing options from each initial package. This hybrid package formed the basis for the Steering Committee recommendations. Section 5 provides detailed information about package creation and evaluation.

2.2.4 Development of Recommendations

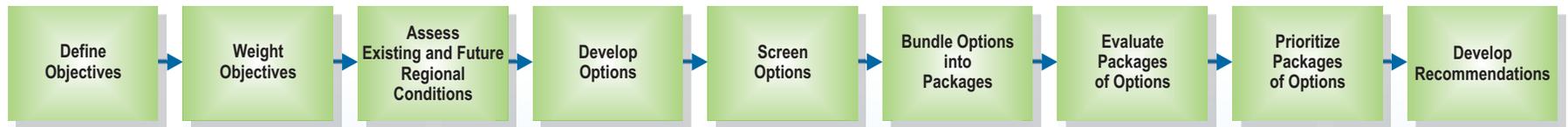
The final result of the integrated planning process was the development of recommendations. The recommendations reflect future water resources policies for Butte County. The Steering Committee is recommending these policies to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

The recommendations, or policy statements, stem from the options. The hybrid package includes the options that perform the best according to the objectives. Taken as a group, these options provide future directions for the DW&RC. The policy statements formalize these future directions.

The policy statements are divided into two tiers. The First Tier of recommendations reflects policies deemed important, and the Steering Committee recommends that DW&RC focus on implementing them in the near term. These policies tie directly to the options in the hybrid package – each option (or a group of related options) translates into a policy statement. The Second Tier of recommendations includes policies that stem from options that were not in the hybrid package.

The Study Team drafted the initial set of policy recommendations for Steering Committee review and comment. The Study Team sought stakeholder agreement into these recommendations. Where stakeholder agreement was not possible, the recommendations section includes a dissenting opinion.

PLANNING PROCESS



WORKSHOP TOPICS

Workshop # 1 "Introduction" August 15, 2003	Workshop # 2 "Existing Conditions" September 2003	Workshop # 3 "Options" October 2003	Workshop # 4 "Packages of Options" November/December 2003	Workshop # 5 "Evaluation" January/February 2004	Workshop # 6 "Recommendations" March 2004
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Integrated Plan • Identify roles and responsibilities • Discuss planning process • Establish planning objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weight planning objectives by importance • Discuss existing and future regional conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agricultural demand forecast - Urban demand forecast - Environmental monitoring plan - Drought management plan - Local watershed and water management plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on conditions assessments • Discuss options identified by Study Team • Identify additional options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review option screening for fatal flaws <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal feasibility - Political feasibility - Environmental feasibility - Engineering feasibility • Bundle options into packages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare packages of options to the planning objectives • Prioritize packages that best meet objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review prioritization • Develop implementation strategy for prioritized packages • Develop recommendations for the Water Commission
MATERIALS PROVIDED for REVIEW					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning process • Draft planning objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated planning objectives • Draft agricultural demand report • Draft urban demand report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft environmental monitoring plan • Draft drought plan • Option descriptions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft option screening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft evaluation of option packages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft implementation steps • Draft recommendations

DEFINITIONS

Options: policies, programs and projects that may help meet planning objectives

Packages: Bundles of options that should be implemented together

The Plan is intended to improve water management in the County, and to maintain agricultural viability, meet urban and environmental needs, ensure a future groundwater supply to overlying users, enhance the economy, and protect the citizens and natural resources in Butte County.

