



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

State	Project	Lead Agency	Estimated Cost	Opposition	Comments
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.

State	Project	Lead Agency	Estimated Cost	Opposition	Comments
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.