


Water Resource Planning Workshop



January 19, 2010
 Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District

WATER RIGHTS and OPTIONS

David Aladjem – Downey Brand LLP
 Paula Whealen – Wagner & Bonsignore Engineers

WATER RIGHTS 101

BASIC PRINCIPLES

- ▶ California's Dual System of Water Rights
 - Appropriative and Riparian
- ▶ "First in time is first in right"
- ▶ "Use it or lose it"
- ▶ All uses must be reasonable and beneficial

BASIC PRINCIPLES

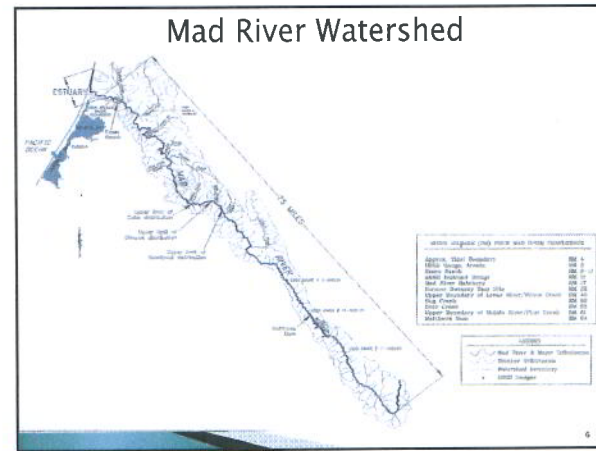
- ▶ Balance consumptive and environmental uses for the public interest
 - Municipal (drinking water)
 - Industrial (pulp mills)
 - Environmental (fish and habitat)
 - Recreation (people)
 - Hydropower

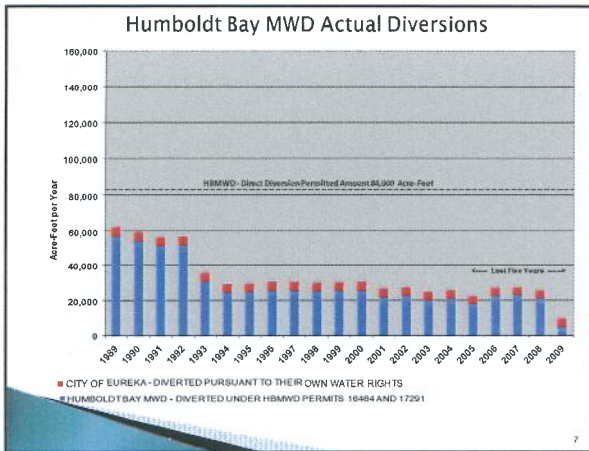
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- ▶ What is the difference between a water right permit and a water right license?
- ▶ What are the components of a water right?
- ▶ Can water rights be lost or taken away?
- ▶ Can we transfer water without losing it?
- ▶ Does "area of origin" doctrine protect HBMWD?

HBMWD'S WATER RIGHTS

- ▶ Storage in Ruth Lake
 - 48,030 acre-feet
- ▶ Direct Diversion from Mad River
 - About 84,000 acre-feet (75 mgd) annually
- ▶ Hydropower
- ▶ Permitted Points of Diversion
 - Ruth Lake and Essex Operations Center
- ▶ Permitted Place of Use
 - Within HBMWD boundaries and around Ruth Lake





THE DELTA and COMPREHENSIVE WATER PACKAGE

- ▶ Water supply reliability
- ▶ Reductions in per capita urban uses
- ▶ Funding for local projects

WATER RIGHTS 201 STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

HBMWD has two broad options:

- ▶ **Option 1** – License amount of water used to date and forfeit unused portion
 - Can be done anytime prior to 2029
 - No new permit terms or condition
 - At some point, growth will be limited

- ▶ **Option 2** – Attempt to use full amount under permit between 2010 and 2029
- ▶ *Goal: To increase use by 60,000 acre-feet annually by 2029*
 - 60,000 af = amount required for 18,000 acres of rice
 - 60,000 af = amount required for 35,000 acres of wine grapes (about 50% of the vineyard area in Sonoma County)
 - 60,000 af = over 3 times the amount of beer produced annually in USA
 - 60,000 af = water needed to supply a city of 300,000 people (twice the size of Santa Rosa)

Potential Future Uses of Water

- ▶ **Option 2A** – Instream Purposes
 - Increased flows in the Mad River
 - Increased estuarine flows
- ▶ **Option 2B** – Within HBMWD Service Area
 - Domestic
 - Industrial
 - Aquaculture / Silviculture

- ▶ **Option 2C** – Outside of HBMWD Service Area
 - Within Mad River watershed
 - Within adjacent watersheds
 - Other locations
- ▶ **Option 2D** – Combination of the Above

