

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS PROVIDED DURING THE MARCH 8, 2022 PLAN FOR WATER WORKSHOP #5

Workshop video available:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFT4zSktPJU&list=PLPdajiT7cyXOIj020PVI7wZ8AMb-cTHCW&index=5&t=5750s>

Q: Stewart Feldman (100:06)

My question with the matrix under the water rights that we're discussing: under outcomes it has "narrative and mapping for final document." Does mapping mean physical maps or procedural sequence? Can you define mapping?

A: Jennifer Hanson, NID General Manager

It was originally intended to identify the specific point of use associated with each water right, so that would be an actual physical map as opposed to some type of process-based mapping. But if you have any recommendations for process-based mapping, please let us know that as well we can try to accommodate that request.

Q: Otis Wollen (103:07)

I see you've added a whole session on risk. The previous presentations have been very informative. Oftentimes in strategic planning you do a basic SWOT analysis. Looking at the present and the past, you look at strengths and weaknesses. Looking at the future you look at opportunities and threats. That could be a very useful approach to a risk analysis.

R: Jennifer Hanson (104:34)

We are planning on doing a traditional SWOT analysis. It will be one of the first things we'll do when we start strategic planning. So stay tuned!

Q: Linda Fischer (105:46)

We the neighbors on Maranatha Place and Pekolee Road believe we are next in line to bring water to our homes. Is this true?

R: Jennifer Hanson (105:56)

Please feel free to email me at hansonj@nidwater.com and I'll get a staff member to answer that as soon as we can.

Q: Miriam Limov, Nevada County Food Policy Council (190:57)

With the new FERC licensing requirements, what is your priority list for how you determine who will receive water in a drought situation when our local farmers/ranchers could go out of business without water?

R: Jennifer Hanson (191:31) Outside of curtailments the priority order the water code doesn't come into play.

R: Dustin Cooper, NID District Counsel (191:22) – yes, that's correct. It's a good question, but keep in mind that things like FERC requirements are a separate regulatory scheme. It's a requirement. In effect, it becomes a requirement of your water right. So if FERC says you shall release so much cfs at a certain point, you have to do that lest you are in violation of your FERC permit or license

C: Miriam Limov, Nevada County Food Policy Council (194:16)

The Nevada County Food Policy Council encourages NID to plan for a system that prioritizes water for food production agriculture. Local food production is a cornerstone of community health and well-being. Published in 2020, the Nevada County Food System Assessment, cites that buying local has a positive economic benefit on the community because locally owned businesses recirculate a greater percentage of revenue locally.

R: Jennifer Hanson (194:45)

That is a fact. Every local tax dollar, every local dollar, spent does contribute to more dollars spent and invested back in your community. Although we're not sales tax entities ... buy local; shop local; support your local farmers.

Q: Miriam Limov, Nevada County Food Policy Council (195:13)

We are grateful for NID's legacy of agricultural support and we encourage the staff and board to continue this vital community service into the future.

R: (195:21) NID Director Karen Hull

Can I just add to that? My understanding from the Ag Water Management Plan (AWMP) is that the state basically mandates priority for utilization of water -- people first, then livestock, then annual and perennial crops. To Miriam's point, that protection exists within the state guidelines.

R: NID Operations Manager Chip Close (196:14)

If you look at our drought contingency plan, that's the way in which we prioritize how we start cutbacks. On the more local level, the way we prioritize water use in a drought year, or dry years, is we go to our Drought Contingency Plan where we detail thresholds, the targets, and then how it affects the customers (and which customer classes are affected first).

Q: Keiko Mertz, South Yuba River Citizens League (202:15)

How does selling water fit into water rights? And can you re-sell water purchased from others?

R: Jennifer Hanson (202:24)

To the first question; "Yes," we are allowed legally to sell water that is consistent with our water right purpose of use. Can you re-sell water purchases? It depends on the agreement under which it was purchased. The only water we buy that would have any potential to re-sell would PG&E water, and there are some requirements within that cooperating agreement .

Q: Josie Crawford (203:16)

Thank you for such a great and informative presentation. I am new to water rights so please excuse my lack of understanding. We have concerns about South Wolf Creek (south county) and its yearly drying up. What is the water rights' situation on that creek? I work for Wolf Creek Community Alliance and as you know, there are a lot of concerned residents in the lower part of the South Wolf watershed and it is a trout stream that should not dry up. This stream was not considered an intermittent stream originally.

R: Jennifer Hanson

This is a topic we discussed earlier but that we also tackle frequently. We get calls related to putting water in streams that may be dry and the concern is we are arbitrarily putting water in a stream that has dried up during a time of the year when it should be dried up. It is not consistent with our water rights, as well as it causes some issues with the animals that rely on those streams. We can certainly talk to you directly about this issue and specifically your concerns regarding the trout stream.

Q: Aimee Retzler, Sierra Harvest (205.11)

Thank you for such an incredible meeting. Sierra Harvest is busy training and educating farmers how to run viably economic businesses to move towards the goal of having 20% of our food that we consume, produced locally. We are encouraging season extension and working with farmers to grow their markets locally including a scratch-cooked school meal program (a guaranteed market). The farming community is scared about their water getting cut off after they have invested in season extension strategies. How can NID and Sierra Harvest partner together on these discussions because the bottom line is everyone has to eat?

R: Jennifer Hanson (205:47)

We meet regularly with the ag community, and I recommend that we move you into those particular conversations. In dry years there is risk associated with season extension programs from the standpoint that one of the easiest ways for conservation with the raw water customers would be to either truncate start the season into early. I do think this would be worth a conversation offline.