

In the WORKS

WORKS Assessment MP Region Checks the Current of CVP Water Accounting



Friant Dam

In March 2007, the Mid-Pacific Region administered its first WORKS Contractor assessment. The assessment examines Central Valley Project water contractors perceptions and opinions with regard to four of WORKS' essential goals: service, system credibility, value, and accountability.

Out of approximately 156 CVP contractors who received the assessment, approximately 30 percent responded. Respondents represented a broad range of demographics, including small vs. large contractors, various regions of the Central Valley, and association membership.

Key Findings

On a 1-5 scale (1 = Highly Negative, 5 = Highly Positive), the overall assessment revealed an average performance index of 3.15.

Contractors delivering larger amounts of water (25,000 acre-

feet or more) were more likely to have a negative perception of Reclamation's water accounting process.

Most responses had little (significant) variance based on Central Valley Project Water Association (CVPWA) membership, but those responses with variances tended to reveal a more favorable perception from members.

The most commonly noted priorities identified by respondents were (in order of priority): improved reports, consistency of information, and improved follow-up.

A large majority (between 78 percent and 82 percent) of all respondents were willing to use standard reporting forms.

A full report of the assessment results can be accessed at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvp/wateraccounting/index.html>.

CVP Water Accounting Update

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Trinity River

Reclamation's Mission Statement

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

CVP Water Accounting Launches New Website



In an effort to improve communications with the Central Valley Project water community, the Mid-Pacific Region has begun the development of a new CVP Water Accounting website.

The website will provide contractors with an information portal to receive updates and information regarding CVP water accounting, including reference documents, event calendars,

BOR-WORKS updates, and even an issue resolution form. The new website can be found at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvp/wateraccounting/index.html>.

Any comments or suggestions on how we might improve this website to better serve CVP water customers can be sent to:

2CVPWORKS@mp.usbr.gov or by clicking the "Contact Us" tab on the CVP water accounting website.

Payment Module Update

Changes are in the works for the payment portion of BORWORKS which has continually received criticism over the last several years. After a business process analysis, it was determined that these issues were driven by a combination of process and technical shortcomings.

In January, the BORWORKS team began work on a payment module. This module will provide payment data that is more complete, timely, and accurate, while saving MP Region both time and resources. Anticipation is high for both contractors and Reclamation staff alike, who will now have a full picture of payment and charge information, all in one location.

So what will this module do? In our current process Accounting staff is required to input payment data into two separate systems, the Federal Financial System (FFS) and BORWORKS. With the new module, Accounting staff will input the payment data into the Federal Financial System,



which will feed this information to BORWORKS on a daily basis.

The module is expected to be complete in Spring 2008.

Past Milestones

January 2007: Initial brainstorming for payment module begins.

June 2007: Payment Module presented to WORKS Change Management Board and approved.

September 2007: Test file of FFS data provided to MP Region.

BOR-WORKS Hits the Information Superhighway

On August 13th the Bureau of Reclamation Water Operation and Record Keeping System (BORWORKS) was upgraded to an Oracle 10G application server.

The upgrade moved BORWORKS to a web-based application and was required to ensure that MP Region remains in compliance with IT security requirements and continues to operate the system on a supported server.

Although the primary focus of the upgrade was not related to functionality, early use of the web-based system has revealed faster access and processing in field offices.

At this time, BORWORKS is still an internal system and operates on Reclamation's intranet (internal network).

WATER FACTS

The CVP:

Has a storage capacity of approximately 13 million acre-feet.

Covers an area 500 miles long by up to 60 miles wide, comprising almost one-third of California.

Is comprised of 20 dams and reservoirs, 11 powerplants, and 500 miles of major canal as well as conduits, tunnels, and related facilities.

Manages some 9 million acre-feet of water.

Annually delivers about 7 million acre-feet for agriculture, urban, and wildlife use.

Furnishes about 600,000 acre-feet for municipal and industrial use, enough to supply close to 1 million households with their water needs each year.

Source: <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvp/about.html>



Can You Read Me Now? Monthly Water Statements Get a Makeover

After months of coordination between CVP contractors and Reclamation staff, the new monthly water statements (MWS) are ready for their debut.

The new MWS includes several improvements from the prior statements, including year-to-date information, removal of duplicate deliveries, reformatting, and more!

A “How to Read Your Statement” guide will accompany the new statements when they are sent out. The guide and additional information will also be available on the CVP Water Accounting Website.

Financial Management Division Updates

In May 2007, the Mid-Pacific Region selected Kathleen Burks as the Regional Financial Manager. Burks joins Reclamation from the U.S. Coast Guard, where she served as Deputy Comptroller. Her experience includes serving as Financial Management Director and Administrative Officer for the Department of Agriculture, and Administrative Officer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

As the new Financial Manager, Burks will serve as the senior financial advisor and lead the Financial Management Division which includes Accounting Services, Budget Services, and Ratesetting Services. Since Burks’ selection, the Mid-Pacific Region has also made selections for two key positions. Jennifer Strother has been selected as the Accounting Services Manager. Yolanda Wesson has been selected as the Ratesetting Services Manager.

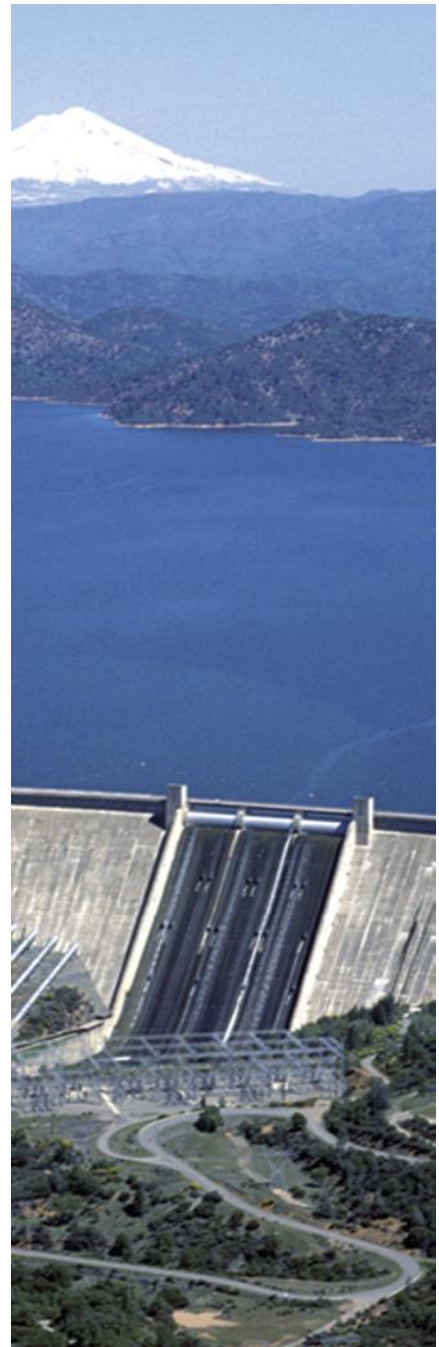
Financial Management Division, Key Personnel

Kathleen Burks, Financial Manager
Lora Close, Assistant Financial Manager
Jennifer Strother, Accounting Services Branch
Craig Muehlberg, Budget Services Branch
Yolanda Wesson, Ratesetting Services Branch
Julia McGinnis, Water Accounting System Manager

Upcoming Events

The Mid-Pacific Region is actively developing learning tools and activities to increase awareness and knowledge for Central Valley Project water contractors on water accounting issues and foster relationships between the Region and water districts, authorities, and organizations.

Please visit our website to stay updated on our future sessions.



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