

Commenting Agency	Date Received	Comment Subject Area								Specific Comment	Response to Comment
		Project Specifics	Pumping & Extraction	Water Rights & Legal	Boundary Concerns	Water Quality	Water Storage Levels	Cost	General Comment		
Template Letters in Opposition to the proposed Plan*	Various dates during Initial Study Scoping Period		X							(1)...believes that until groundwater storage can be integrated into the Central Basin Judgment, any unilateral actions by any agency to implement a storage program will only result in further litigation and additional significant attorney's fees, which CBMWD and some producers will directly incur and which CBMWD will pass on to its customers and ultimately their constituent ratepayers.	There is no provision for groundwater storage in the Central Basin judgment. The Central Basin Municipal Water District (CBMWD) is committed to the integration of storage into regional water management, which is why we are proposing to undertake this Program. The primary tool to accomplish this is the CBMWD Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). All activities under the proposed groundwater storage Plan will be closely coordinated with the UWMP, as well as other regional water planning activities such as the Gateway Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). Additionally, CBMWD agrees that litigation and significant attorney's fees do not need to be part of this process. We intend to use our statutory powers as a municipal water district to store water. Specifically, Water Code Section 71000 et seq provides CBMWD with the statutory authority to "acquire, control, distribute, store, spread, sink, treat, purify, recycle, recapture, and salvage any water, including sewage and storm waters, for the beneficial use or uses of the district, its inhabitants, or the owners of rights to water in the district." Storage of water in the basin will benefit the citizens in our service area. The proposed Plan, as refined by the CEQA process will be designed to store water in a manner that best serves all parties with interests in the Basin and that minimizes potential impacts to environmental resources.
								X	X	(2) ...Plan also results in environmental planning costs that will be passed through. We urge CBMWD to cease its plan and stop incurring these costs until a more inclusive groundwater storage program can be pursued that will allow use of the Central Basin for groundwater storage (which we strongly favor), but avoid the continuing conflicts and litigation that plague this Basin.	The CBMWD remains committed to the goal of implementing an inclusive groundwater storage program in the Basin. Note that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process, by design, is an "inclusive process" that encourages the timely participation and consideration of all interested parties, public and private. Further, the CBMWD has proposed this Plan to accomplish the goals documented in the Initial Study/Notice of Preparation (IS/NOP), all of which are designed in consideration of and consistent with eliminating ongoing conflicts within the Basin.
										X	(3)...concerned by the complete lack of transparency with which CBMWD has acted in developing the plan to date. To our knowledge, the plan was developed and consulting contracts were let without any notice or properly agendized discussion of those issues at either the committee or full board level. It is difficult to understand how CBMWD could proceed with such a significant and controversial program without the approval of its Board of Directors at an open and public meeting.

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									X	<p>(4) Moreover, at a time when local governments and public agencies are under close scrutiny, and openness in governmental decisions is becoming even more important, CBMWD has taken these steps without any prior public notice or input from the pumping community - its customers.</p>	<p>As described at § 21003 of the CEQA Statute - PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCEDURES; DOCUMENTS; REPORTS; DATA BASE; ADMINISTRATION OF PROCESS;</p> <p><i>The Legislature further finds and declares that it is the policy of the state that:</i></p> <p><i>(a) Local agencies integrate the requirements of this division with planning and environmental review procedures otherwise required by law or by local practice so that all those procedures, to the maximum feasible extent, run concurrently emphasis added), rather than consecutively.</i></p> <p>This section of the Statute further states;</p> <p><i>(f) All persons and public agencies involved in the environmental review process be responsible for carrying out the process in the most efficient, expeditious manner in order to conserve the available financial, governmental, physical, and social resources with the objective that those resources may be better applied toward the mitigation of actual significant effects on the environment.</i></p> <p>These concepts are reinforced by Section 15004 of the CEQA Guideline - TIME OF PREPARATION;</p> <p><i>(a) Before granting any approval of a project subject to CEQA, every Lead Agency or Responsible Agency shall consider a final EIR or Negative Declaration or another document authorized by these Guidelines to be used in the place of an EIR or Negative Declaration. (See: The definition of "approval" in Section 15352.) (b) Choosing the precise time for CEQA compliance involves a balancing of competing factors. EIRs and negative declarations should be prepared as early as feasible in the planning process to enable environmental considerations to influence project program and influence project program and design and yet late enough to provide meaningful information for environmental assessment.</i></p> <p>CBMWD's release of the IS/NOP for the Proposed Program in February 2011 was designed in compliance with these stated CEQA requirements and guidelines and generally to satisfy the underlying imperative for early public consultation. Therefore, issuance of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) is exactly the "public notice" referenced by the Commenter that satisfies the solicitation for input that is criticized.</p>
		X								<p>(5) The NOP concerning the plan contains a project description that is so vague and lacking of specific detail that we cannot provide a meaningful response regarding that project. The NOP provides no details regarding the proposed storage program, including how the water would</p>	<p>CBMWD's release of the IS/NOP for the Proposed Program in February 2011 was designed in compliance with the previously stated CEQA requirements and guidelines and generally to satisfy the underlying imperative for early public consultation. However, that said, based on feedback provided during the Scoping Period, CBMWD is re-circulating the NOP with a more detailed Program Description.</p>

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*Includes: Montebello Land & Water Company; Park Water Company; Orchard Dale Water District; Pico Water District; Sativa Los Angeles County Water District; South Montebello Irrigation District; City of Commerce; City of Paramount; City of Norwalk; Bellflower-Somerset Mutual Water Company.										be put into storage, where it may be extracted, who may extract it, etc...	
		X								(6) ...the NOP provides no details regarding the proposed storage program, including how the water would be put into storage, where it may be extracted, who may extract it, etc.	Providing specific details regarding exactly how water would be put into storage or where it may be extracted from would present a pre-determined Plan that would undermine the scoping process. CBMWD agrees that some level of specificity is required during the CEQA process, but it is more appropriately provided in the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Reports to allow for careful consideration and, where warranted, inclusion in the final Plan design.
			X							(7) ...any extractions of water to be stored under the plan must not exceed the pumping limitations set forth in the Central Basin Judgment	A primary goal of the proposed Plan is to store water for the benefit of the public we serve. We intend to use our statutory powers as a municipal water district to accomplish this. Specifically, Water Code Section 71000 et seq provides CBMWD with the statutory authority to “acquire, control, distribute, store, spread, sink, treat, purify, recycle, recapture, and salvage any water, including sewage and storm waters, for the beneficial use or uses of the district, its inhabitants, or the owners of rights to water in the district.” Storage of water in the basin will benefit the citizens in our service area. The proposed Plan will explore how best to store and extract that water as required under California law.
					X					(8) We strongly believe that any groundwater storage plan must be integrated with the Central Basin Judgment to ensure that the Basin is adequately protected and to avoid even more litigation and substantial attorney's fees.	There is no provision for groundwater storage within the Central Basin judgment. CBMWD is committed to the integration of storage into regional water management. The primary tool to accomplish this is the CBMWD UWMP. All activities under the proposed Plan will be closely coordinated with the UWMP, as well as other regional water planning activities such as the Gateway IRWMP.  Additional litigation and significant attorney’s fees do not need to be part of this process. We intend to use our statutory powers as a municipal water district to store water. Specifically, Water Code Section 71000 et seq provides CBMWD with the statutory authority to “acquire, control, distribute, store, spread, sink, treat, purify, recycle, recapture, and salvage any water, including sewage and storm waters, for the beneficial use or uses of the district, its inhabitants, or the owners of rights to water in the district.” Storage of water in the basin will benefit the citizens in our service area. The proposed Plan, as refined by the CEQA process will be designed to store water in a manner that best serves all parties with interests in the Basin and that minimizes

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										potential impacts to environmental resources.
City of Lakewood	31-Mar-11			X					(1) ...the City of Lakewood believes that the intent of the plan is to position the CBMWD to improperly control an area of water supply management that is beyond the District's purview.	The mission of CBMWD is "[t]o acquire, sell and conserve imported and other water that meets all required standards and to furnish it to our customers in a planned, timely and cost-effective manner that anticipates future needs". Effective water supply management is a key component of our mission and a commitment to the public we serve. Water Code Section 71000 et seq provides CBMWD with the statutory authority to "acquire, control, distribute, store, spread, sink, treat, purify, recycle, recapture, and salvage any water, including sewage and storm waters, for the beneficial use or uses of the district, its inhabitants, or the owners of rights to water in the district". This authority is the basis for our involvement in regional water supply management. The proposed Plan will be conducted in close coordination with other regional water planning activities such as the CBMWD UWMP and the Gateway IRWMP.
				X					(2) Lakewood believes that any groundwater storage plan must be integrated with the Central Basin Judgment to ensure that the Basin is adequately protected.	There is no provision for groundwater storage within the Central Basin judgment. CBMWD is committed to integration of storage into regional water management. The primary tool to accomplish this is the CBMWD UWMP. All activities under the proposed Plan will be closely coordinated with the UWMP, as well as other regional water planning activities such as the Gateway IRWMP.
		X							(3) The NOP concerning the plan contains a project description that is so vague and lacking of specific detail that we cannot provide a meaningful response regarding that project.	CBMWD's release of the IS/NOP for the Proposed Program in February 2011 was designed in compliance with stated CEQA requirements and guidelines and generally to satisfy the underlying imperative for early public consultation. That said however, based on feedback provided during the initial Scoping Period, CBMWD has re-circulated the NOP, incorporating a revised Program Description.
		X							(4) ...the NOP provides no details regarding the proposed storage program, including how the water would be put into storage, where it may be extracted, who may extract it, etc.	Providing specific details regarding "exactly" how water would be put into storage or where it may be extracted would present a pre-determined Program that would undermine the scoping process. CBMWD agrees that some level of specificity is required during the CEQA process, but it is more appropriately provided in the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Reports to allow for careful consideration and, where warranted, inclusion in the final Plan design.

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				X						(5) ...suggests that the District begin to work with the groundwater rights holders to amend the Judgment to include the ability to store surplus water in the Central Groundwater Basin.	We intend to work with local groundwater rights holders, cities and constituents in all aspects of the proposed Plan. It is premature, however, to assume that the Judgment must be amended to store water effectively when so many other affected parties are not part of the judgment.
Department of Transportation (District 7)	14-Mar-11				X				X	(1) When specific project locations are identified, a construction traffic study is needed.	Comment noted. Construction traffic studies will be prepared when specific Project locations are identified. All such Projects will be the subject of a project-specific CEQA process tiered from the PEIR.
					X				X	(2) Please include the Department in the environmental review process when specific projects are proposed.	Comment noted. The Department of Transportation will be included in the environmental review process when specific projects are proposed.
Department of Water and Power (City of LA)	17-Mar-11				X					(1) Please revise your project description, website, public notices, program literature, studies, and other documentation to acknowledge the boundaries of the City of Los Angeles which are excluded from your service area.	All CEQA-related documentation clearly differentiates between the CBMWD service area and the study area used to analyze the proposed Plan. The CBMWD's service area represents a political boundary that is not in dispute. The Central Basin is a hydrologic boundary, which due to its fluid nature, has to be evaluated in its entirety to fully assess any proposed Plan. Furthermore, the need for infrastructure and planning beyond CBMWD's boundaries require that geographic areas where such activities would take place be evaluated as part of the CEQA process.
									X	(2) The City of Los Angeles expects that any specific actions contemplated for the program are not to be located within its boundaries without its direct involvement in the planning, environmental, and engineering studies for the program.	CBMWD will directly involve the City of Los Angeles in the planning, environmental and engineering studies for any specific projects within the boundaries of the City of Los Angeles proposed under this proposed Plan. It may be appropriate that the City of Los Angeles take on the role of Lead Agency for any project-specific CEQA processes tiered from this PEIR that are within the City of Los Angeles.
						X					(3) The City of Los Angeles further expects that the program will not affect the quality of the groundwater it extracts from its current and future wellfields.

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			X							(4) The PEIR must include careful examination and modeling of the effects of the various water sources your organization proposes to use for groundwater recharge on the water quality of the Basin. Such studies must include any specific affects to groundwater extracted by the aforementioned wellfields.	Comment noted. Ground water quality will be addressed as part of the technical studies to be completed and incorporated into the Draft PEIR.
						X				(5) Modeling shall include a study of the fate and transport of any constituents introduced into the basin by recharge activities proposed under this program.	Comment noted. Ground water quality will be addressed as part of the technical studies to be completed and incorporated into the Draft PEIR.
						X				(6) The PEIR must also include a risk and vulnerability assessment of the proposed activities and those activities must also receive the acceptance by state and federal regulatory agencies responsible for safe drinking water standards.	The terminology of "risk and vulnerability" is not clear. If the Commentor intends that risk and vulnerability apply to environmental resources then CBMWD is in agreement and will mitigate the risk and vulnerability to all environmental resources to the extent feasible. Specifically with regard to drinking water, if approved, the proposed Plan will be implemented in a manner that will comply with all safe drinking water standards.
Department of Water Resources	3-Mar-11			X						(1) Watermaster believes that your proposed project may result in extractions that would be out of compliance with the judgment.	A determination has not yet been made regarding the best way to utilize the storage that underlies CBMWD. The CBMWD remains committed to the goal of implementing an inclusive groundwater storage program in the Basin. Note that the CEQA process, by design, is an "inclusive process" that encourages the timely participation and consideration of all interested parties, public and private. Further, the CBMWD has proposed this Plan to accomplish the goals documented in the Initial Study/Notice of Preparation (IS/NOP), all of which are designed in consideration of and consistent with eliminating ongoing conflicts within the Basin.
Long Beach Water Department	9-Mar-11				X					(1) Please revise your project area to properly reflect the boundaries of your organization's service area.	All CEQA-related documentation clearly differentiates between the CBMWD service area and the study area used to analyze the proposed Plan. The CBMWD's service area represents a political boundary that is not in dispute. The Central Basin is a hydrologic boundary, which due to its fluid nature, has to be evaluated in its entirety to fully assess any proposed groundwater storage plan. The proposed Plan, as refined by the CEQA process will be designed to store water in a manner that best serves all parties with interests in the Basin and that minimizes potential impacts to environmental resources.
City of Vernon	22-Mar-11	X								The City of Vernon, however, was not provided a copy of the plan itself and is unsure if such a plan has been developed as of this date. Please	The proposed Plan is still being developed. Providing specific details regarding exactly how water would be put into storage or where it may be extracted would present a pre-determined Program that would undermine the scoping process. CBMWD agrees that

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										provide the City with a copy of the Storage Plan. If one has not been prepared, then it does not appear to be appropriate for CBMWD to move forward with a CEQA document until such time as the project is fully developed and all environmental consequences of the plan can be studied.	some level of specificity is required during the CEQA process, but it is more appropriately provided in the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Reports to allow for careful consideration and, where warranted, inclusion in the final Plan design. The City of Vernon will continue to be included in the environmental review process as it moves forward.
			X							(3) The plan needs to address how water will be introduced into and extracted from the aquifer and will the introduction of this water in any way affect current replenishment activities.	As noted, how water will be introduced and extracted from the Basin are critical components of the proposed Plan. These specifics need to be clearly described in the Draft PEIR and assessed relative to potential impacts to various environmental resources. To accomplish this, a comprehensive groundwater model is being developed as part of the proposed Plan. This model will enable assessment of how the introduction of additional water into storage might impact Basin and how it operates.
			X	X				X		(4) Will the extraction of water in any way lower water elevations so as to potentially impact those agencies that have water rights in the Central Basin?	The effects of ground water storage and recharge/extraction operations and ground water level changes will be evaluated as part of technical studies currently being completed. These technical studies will be included as part of the Draft PEIR that will be circulated for review. The best way to utilize the storage that underlies CBMWD has not yet been determined.  If extractions are the best water management option, the comprehensive groundwater model that is being developed will enable assessment of the impact of pumping. In that event, the assessment would be conducted in coordination with impacted parties to ensure that the potential impacts on water rights are fully understood.
				X					X	(5) Who will be permitted to store water under the plan, what fees if any will be required to store or extract the water?	The best way to utilize the storage that underlies CBMWD has not yet been determined. This assessment will be part of the proposed Plan, as described in the Draft PEIR. The economic structure associated with the implementation of the proposed Plan is not the purview of the CEQA process, but to the extent the parameters are known, a description will be provided in the various CEQA documents and presentations associated with the process. For example, if additional fees are needed to pay for implementation and administration of the storage, those fees would be properly noticed to the impacted parties, including Proposition 218 notification if needed. This is consistent with CBMWD's statutory authority to fix rates to "[p]ay the operating expenses of the district and the improvement district" (Water Code Section 71616(a)).

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						X				(6) What methodologies will be introduced to ensure that the storage of the water will not result in the contamination of the aquifer from existing or future toxic plumes?	<p>An assessment of the location of existing contamination is being completed. This assessment will be documented in the Draft PEIR. Lateral and vertical factor of safety buffers around these areas will be established based on groundwater modeling assessments of the areas. Plans for storage of water in groundwater basins and extraction of groundwater will avoid these areas, including the factor of safety buffers. If it becomes necessary to impact an area, appropriate mitigation would be implemented and the use of that water would be permitted under the California Department of Public Health 97-005 process.</p> <p>With respect to future contamination, groundwater monitoring in accordance with current practices will be conducted as necessary to detect future contamination should it occur. The probability of future contamination is low due to the implementation of numerous regulatory requirements in the past few decades for underground storage tanks, above ground storage tanks, spill control and response, materials handling and use, and hazardous waste management.</p>
							X			(7) Will storage levels in the aquifers introduce additional hazards into the region such as liquefaction concerns?	The potential for liquefaction related to implementation of the proposed Plan will be evaluated and this evaluation will be documented in the Draft PEIR.
							X			(8) How will any spill over or underflow to the West Basin be accounted for. Will there be a natural loss of water and how will this water be accounted for?	The potential for inter-basin transfer of storage water will be addressed as part of the technical studies to be completed. These studies will be incorporated into the Draft PEIR.
				X	X					(9) What authority does Central Basin have over the Central Basin Aquifers, especially those portions that may fall outside of its geographical boundaries?	<p>The mission of CBMWD is “[t]o acquire, sell and conserve imported and other water that meets all required standards and to furnish it to our customers in a planned, timely and cost-effective manner that anticipates future needs”. Effective water supply management is a key component of our mission and a commitment to the public we serve. Water Code Section 71000 et seq provides CBMWD with the statutory authority to “acquire, control, distribute, store, spread, sink, treat, purify, recycle, recapture, and salvage any water, including sewage and storm waters, for the beneficial use or uses of the district, its inhabitants, or the owners of rights to water in the district”. This authority is the basis for our involvement in regional water supply management. The proposed Plan will be conducted in close coordination with other regional water planning activities such as the CBMWD UWMP and the Gateway IRWMP.</p> <p>Additionally all CEQA-related documentation clearly differentiates between the CBMWD service area and the study area used to analyze the proposed Plan. The CBMWD’s service area represents a political boundary that is not in dispute. The Central Basin is a hydrologic boundary, which due to its fluid nature, has to be evaluated in its entirety to fully assess any proposed Plan.</p>

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				X					X	(10) What hydro geological expertise does Central Basin have in overseeing, managing, and accounting for water stored in an aquifer? Who will manage the plan as it moves forward?	The hydrogeology and groundwater modeling being prepared in support of the proposed Plan are being handled by HDR, Inc. HDR is a large, internationally recognized civil engineering firm with over 8,000 employees. It has full-service hydrogeology and groundwater modeling capabilities. HDR will draw on its nationwide staff and experience to develop a state-of-the-art groundwater model and recommendations for hydro geologic issues. The model will enable assessment of issues such as basin recharge, extractions, and underflows between basins. Management of the proposed Plan, if it is approved, will be at the discretion of the CBMWD Board of Directors.
									X	(11) How will the implementation of the plan affect the cost of Metropolitan Water District water currently distributed by the Central Basin?	The economic structure and impacts – for example to the Metropolitan Water District’s (MWD) rates - associated with the implementation of the proposed Plan is not the purview of the CEQA process, but to the extent the parameters are known, a description will be provided in the various CEQA documents and presentations associated with the process. Assessment of cost implications will be done in coordination with CBMWD’s retail customers and the public they serve.
				X						(12) How will the storage of water in the Central Basin affect CBMWD ability to obtain surface water during drought conditions? Will this stored water be permitted to be delivered to agencies outside of the Central Basin service area under any circumstances?	A goal of the proposed Plan is to store (pre-deliver) imported surface water when conditions are wet and to use the water when conditions are dry. This has two advantages (1) it improves the reliability of the imported water, and (2) it enables CBMWD and its members agencies to purchase the imported water at discounted rates. This would be done entirely for the benefit of CBMWD’s residents. The delivery to agencies outside of CBMWD has not been contemplated as part of the proposed Plan. If the City of Vernon suggests we consider this, it could be added to the assessment. Delivery of water to an agency outside of CBMWD would apply only to “surplus” water, however, to conform to Water Code Section 71000 et seq.
				X						(13) How will member Cities and those agencies with groundwater rights be involved in the development of the storage plan?	CBMWD’s release of the IS/NOP for the Proposed Program in February 2011 was designed in compliance with these stated CEQA requirements and guidelines and generally to satisfy the underlying imperative for early public consultation. In other words, CBMWD is soliciting participation in development of the proposed Plan by initiating the CEQA process. The proposed Plan’s further development will include ongoing communication and coordination with agencies holding the rights to groundwater within CBMWD, as well as with other stakeholders. It will also involve communication with cities in CBMWD’s service area that may not possess water rights to the groundwater basin but are entitled to their fair share of the region’s underlying storage. This has social justice implications. Citizens located in a city that has no groundwater rights should not be shut out from the direct benefits of the local storage resources simply because of their address.
South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)	23-Mar-11								X	(1) ...please send with the draft EIR all appendices or technical documents related to the air quality and greenhouse gas analyses and	Comment noted. The requested materials will be submitted to the SCAQMD, as requested.

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										electronic versions of all air quality modeling and health risk assessment files. These include original emission calculation spreadsheets and modeling files (not Adobe PDF files).		
									X	(2) The SCAQMD adopted its California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Air Quality Handbook in 1993 to assist other public agencies with the preparation of air quality analyses. The SCAQMD recommends that the Lead Agency use this Handbook as guidance when preparing its air quality analysis.	Comment noted. The referenced Handbook will serve as the basis for the referenced analyses.	
City of Norwalk	9-Mar-11			X						(1) How is the program going to be managed?	Management of the proposed Plan, if it is approved, will be at the discretion of the CBMWD Board of Directors. Development of the proposed Plan itself is being managed by HDR and Pacifica Services, Inc., under the oversight of the CBMWD.	
				X						(2) When you talk about the types of water that would be eligible for storage and you list "conservation" are you talking about water rights that have not been pumped due to conservation measures?	Water rights that have not been pumped due to conservation measures will be considered as a potential type of water for storage. The legality of such storage will be vetted. This is not necessarily, however, conservation within CBMWD. To make sure all possible options for new sources of water have been considered, facilitation of conservation in other areas outside of CBMWD may be considered if it provides a new, economical source of water for CBMWD.	
										X	(3) What is included under the umbrella of conservation?	"Conservation" is the broad spectrum of water efficiency technologies, including indoor conservation, outdoor conservation, residential, commercial, industrial and institutional water efficiency measures, gray water use, leak control, and other innovative ways to use water more efficiently. We intend to cast a broad net to capture all savings associated with water efficiency measures and reduce costs for our customers. This is consistent with our statutory authority to ""undertake a water conservation program to reduce water use and may require, as a condition of new service, that reasonable water-saving devices and water reclamation devices be installed to reduce water use" (Water Code Section 71610.5).
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County										X	(1) Presently, the Districts cannot issue a detailed response to the proposed project until additional project plans and specifications are provided.	CBMWD's release of the IS/NOP for the Proposed Program in February 2011 was designed in compliance with stated CEQA requirements and guidelines and generally to satisfy the underlying imperative for early public consultation. However, that said, based on feedback provided during the initial Scoping Period, CBMWD has re-circulated the NOP, incorporating a revised Program Description. Additionally, the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County will be included in the environmental review process when specific projects are proposed.

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						X			X	(2) As a general comment, the Central Basin's potential use of recycled water would be subject to regulatory requirements and agreements with the Districts.	Comment noted. CBMWD would comply with all applicable regulations and agreements with the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.
						X				(3) In particular, the Districts request to be included in the development of any assumptions regarding the quality and availability of recycled water produced at any of our treatment plants. Please forward information to the attention of Mr. Steven Highter of the Districts' Planning Section.	Comment noted. CBMWD will include the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County in the development of any assumptions regarding the quality and availability of recycled water produced at any of their treatment plants. Future correspondence in this regard will be forwarded to the attention of Mr. Highter in the District's Planning Section.
County of Los Angeles - Department of Public Works	11-Apr-11			X		X				(1) There are inferences in the plan that LA County Flood Control District Spreading Grounds and Injection Wells will be used by the lead agency to fill groundwater storage space. There is currently no mechanism in place to coordinate these types of operations. Any water passed through Flood Control District Facilities, especially from imported or recycled sources, requires strict coordination, appropriate legal agreements to ensure water quality standards, proper indemnification, sufficient notification, etc., and adequate accounting to maintain appropriate groundwater basin management.	LA County Flood Control District Spreading Grounds and Injection Wells may be considered for use by the Lead Agency to fill groundwater storage space. We understand that the LA County Flood Control District currently owns and operates these facilities subject to various legal agreements. New mechanisms would be needed to coordinate these types of operations.  Providing specific details regarding "exactly" how water would be put into storage or where it may be extracted would present a pre-determined Program that would undermine the scoping process. CBMWD would work very closely with the County to ensure strict coordination, appropriate legal agreements, compliance with water quality standards, proper indemnification, sufficient notification and adequate accounting are maintained for appropriate groundwater management.  The issue of coordination also applies to the storm water currently used to recharge the basin. The storm water captured and spread in the Central Basin is under SWRCB licenses for the benefit of groundwater producers in the San Gabriel River System. CBMWD will coordinate with those pumpers to make sure we incorporate their rights into our storage Plan.
		X								(2) Without details covering the entire scope of work in the plan, and the impacts from every specific project proposed, it is not possible to determine the cumulative impacts from the plan.	Providing specific details regarding "exactly" how water would be put into storage or where it may be extracted would present a pre-determined Program that would undermine the scoping process. CBMWD agrees that some level of specificity is required during the CEQA process, but it is more appropriately provided in the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Reports to allow for careful consideration of potential cumulative impacts.
		X									(3) The entire document appears to be very speculative.

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											issuance of the Notice of Preparation is exactly the “public notice” referenced by the Commenter that satisfies the solicitation for input that is criticized.
		X							X	(4) Without discussing any particular projects, there seems to be a tremendous amount of potentially significant impacts in the plan. The following are some of the potentially significant impacts identified within the plan: Flooding; Liquefaction; Landslides; Mudflows; Exposure to Hazardous Materials; Violation of Water Quality Standards; Interference with Groundwater Recharge Activities; Erosion; Sedimentation; Pollution and Cross Contamination.	All of the impact categories described in the comment will be evaluated and documented in the Draft PEIR. That said, specific projects that may be implemented as a part of the proposed Plan will be the subject of tiered, project-specific CEQA evaluations that also will evaluate potential impacts of the type described.
		X							X	(5) A strong case for future reliability is not clear in the document.	<p>The goal of assuring future reliability of groundwater resources is a common priority amongst California water agencies, especially in southern California. It is the purview of the CBMWD Board of Directors to determine if the environmental planning process (i.e., CEQA) makes a strong enough case in this regard when and if they consider approving the proposed Plan.</p> <p>A key method to improve reliability will be the assessment of pre-delivery of imported water for storage in the basin. This has two advantages (1) it improves the reliability of the imported water, and (2) it enables CBMWD and its members agencies to purchase the imported water at discounted rates.</p> <p>The MWD has indicated that “SWP delivery restrictions due to the biological opinion resulted in the loss of about one third of the available SWP supplies in 2008” (MWD Regional Urban Water Management Plan, November 2010). Evidence of this reduced reliability is the recent 10% shortage allocation within MWD’s service area. Storage of pre-delivered imported water and/or water from other sources is needed to address this lack of reliability.</p>
Golden State Water Company	8-Apr-11	X						X		(1) Golden State Water Company is concerned with the lack of justification for the plan, the costs associated with developing the plan and the subsequent financial impact to the Central Basin Municipal Water District's constituents, which are also our customers.	The mission of CBMWD is “[t]o acquire, sell and conserve imported and other water that meets all required standards and to furnish it to our customers in a planned, timely and cost-effective manner that anticipates future needs”. Effective water supply management is a key component of our mission and a commitment to the public we serve. Water Code Section 71000 et seq provides CBMWD with the statutory authority to “acquire, control, distribute, store, spread, sink, treat, purify, recycle, recapture, and salvage any water, including sewage and storm waters, for the beneficial use or uses of the district, its inhabitants, or the owners of rights to water in the district”. This

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											<p>authority is the basis for our involvement in regional water supply management.</p> <p>Storage of water in the basin will benefit the citizens in our service area. The proposed Plan, as refined by the CEQA process will be designed to store water in a manner that best serves all parties with interests in the Basin and that minimizes potential impacts to environmental resources.</p> <p>The economic structure and impacts is not the purview of the CEQA process, but to the extent the parameters are known, a description will be provided in the various CEQA documents and presentations associated with the process. Assessment of cost implications will be done in coordination with CBMWD's retail customers and the public they serve.</p>
		X								(2) In terms of the NOP and IS, both documents lack the necessary project details in which to develop a meaningful response.	CBMWD's release of the IS/NOP for the Proposed Program in February 2011 was designed in compliance with stated CEQA requirements and guidelines and generally to satisfy the underlying imperative for early public consultation. However, that said, based on feedback provided during the initial Scoping Period, CBMWD has re-circulated the NOP, incorporating a revised Program Description.
				X						(3) ...both (NOP and IS) fail to mention that the Central Groundwater Basin is an adjudicated basin.	Comment noted. The revised and re-circulated NOP will include this reference.
				X						(4) ...the failure to discuss, even in general terms, the process by which the plan will be integrated into the provisions of the Judgment is a significant discussion topic missing from the NOP and IS documents. GSWC believes that a groundwater storage plan must be integrated into the Judgment...	The CBMWD is committed to integration of storage into regional water management, which is why we are proposing to undertake this Program.. The primary tool to accomplish this is the CBMWD UWMP. All activities under the proposed Plan will be closely coordinated with the UWMP, as well as other regional water planning activities such as the Gateway IRWMP.
									X	(5) In addition, we respectfully ask you, as the President of the Board, to schedule a Special Board Meeting to allow the constituents and customers of the District to have an open, honest and transparent discussion regarding the details, merits and benefits of the proposed plan.	Comment noted.

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Water Replenishment District of Southern California	8-Apr-11									X	(1) It is not possible for the Water Replenishment District (WRD) or any other interested party to comment on a "proposed project" that is not described in the documents your agency has released in connection with its Notice of Preparation for a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)	CBMWD's release of the IS/NOP for the Proposed Program in February 2011 was designed in compliance with stated CEQA requirements and guidelines and generally to satisfy the underlying imperative for early public consultation. That said however, based on feedback provided during the initial Scoping Period, CBMWD has re-circulated the NOP, incorporating a revised Program Description.	
										X	(2)...the entire premise upon which Central Basin Municipal Water District (CBMWD) bases its "Environmental Impact Report for Groundwater Storage" is fundamentally flawed because it is not true.	Comment noted. The comment does not provide any support for the assertion that the "basis" for the EIR in "not true". Therefore, no direct response may be made.	
											X	(3) What CBMWD represents about itself is historically and factually incorrect.	Comment noted.
											X	In the February 28, 2011 press release announcing the NOP and IS, the CBMWD bases its relevance to groundwater storage on the following assertion "Since the District's founding in 1952, it has been a primary mission of Central Basin to promote, manage and protect the Central Groundwater Basin for public use and Welfare. As the agency granted this statutory authority and duty, the District views this storage plan as crucial to preserving the long-term health and well-being of the people of the communities we serve." There is simply nothing in the historical record to support such a characterization of CBMWD's mission.	The mission of CBMWD is "[t]o acquire, sell and conserve imported and other water that meets all required standards and to furnish it to our customers in a planned, timely and cost-effective manner that anticipates future needs". Effective water supply management is a key component of our mission and a commitment to the public we serve. Water Code Section 71000 et seq provides CBMWD with the statutory authority to "acquire, control, distribute, store, spread, sink, treat, purify, recycle, recapture, and salvage any water, including sewage and storm waters, for the beneficial use or uses of the district, its inhabitants, or the owners of rights to water in the district". This authority is the basis for our involvement in regional water supply management. The proposed Plan will be conducted in close coordination with other regional water Planning activities such as the CBMWD UWMP and the Gateway IRWMP.  Additionally, the July 2010 ruling by Judge Kendig in the case CBMWD, West Basin Municipal Water District (WBMWD) Water Replenishment District (WRD) et al vs. Charles E. Adams, et al, found that WRD's motion to amend the Judgment "conflicts with statutory law set forth in the Water Code and Government Code, and would expand WRD's powers beyond those granted by the Legislature". Judge Kendig's ruling means that WRD's authority is limited to replenishment only.
											X	(4) The promotion, management and protection of the Central Groundwater Basin were not a mission of CBMWD in 1952 and are not a mission of CBMWD today.	The mission of CBMWD is "[t]o acquire, sell and conserve imported and other water that meets all required standards and to furnish it to our customers in a planned, timely and cost-effective manner that anticipates future needs". Effective water supply management is a key component of our mission and a commitment to the public we serve. Water Code Section 71000 et seq provides CBMWD with the statutory authority to "acquire, control, distribute, store, spread, sink, treat, purify, recycle, recapture, and salvage any water, including sewage and storm waters, for the beneficial use or uses of

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											the district, its inhabitants, or the owners of rights to water in the district". This authority is the basis for our involvement in regional water supply management. The proposed Plan will be conducted in close coordination with other regional water planning activities such as the CBMWD UWMP and the Gateway IRWMP.
				X					X	(5) The press release then goes on to claim a "statutory duty and authority" to carry out its groundwater mission. The self-proclaimed mission is fabricated. The claimed duty and authority are imagined.	The mission of CBMWD is "[t]o acquire, sell and conserve imported and other water that meets all required standards and to furnish it to our customers in a planned, timely and cost-effective manner that anticipates future needs". Effective water supply management is a key component of our mission and a commitment to the public we serve. Water Code Section 71000 et seq provides CBMWD with the statutory authority to "acquire, control, distribute, store, spread, sink, treat, purify, recycle, recapture, and salvage any water, including sewage and storm waters, for the beneficial use or uses of the district, its inhabitants, or the owners of rights to water in the district". This authority is the basis for our involvement in regional water supply management. The proposed Plan will be conducted in close coordination with other regional water Planning activities such as the CBMWD UWMP and the Gateway IRWMP.
				X					X	(6) CBMWD was not created by Legislature in 1952. It was created by vote of the people pursuant to a petition sponsored by the Central Basin Water Association.	The California Legislature passed the Municipal Water District Act of 1911. That Act enabled the creation of CBMWD in 1952. The actual vote to create CBMWD occurred on December 2, 1952. It passed by a "six to one majority vote to form the Central Basin Municipal Water District" ("The Story of Water Development in Los Angeles County" by Carl and Ruth Fossette, page 116)
				X					X	(7) CBMWD was not established "to help mitigate the over pumping of the Central Groundwater Basin." WRD was formed in 1959 for that purpose. By law, of course, CBMWD cannot perform replenishment function to "mitigate" overproduction.	Water Code Section 71000 et seq provides CBMWD with the statutory authority to "acquire, control, distribute, store, spread, sink, treat, purify, recycle, recapture, and salvage any water, including sewage and storm waters, for the beneficial use or uses of the district, its inhabitants, or the owners of rights to water in the district". This authority is the basis for our planned use of storage to enhance regional water supply management.
									X	(8) CBMWD did not join the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) "to supplement the dangerously depleted groundwater supplies." CBMWD joined MWD to buy imported water and to resell it to customers in Central Basin who were not otherwise serviced by pre-existing MWD member agencies (Compton, Long Beach and Los Angeles).	CBMWD joined the MWD "to supplement the dangerously depleted groundwater supplies" by buying imported water and to resell it to customers in Central Basin. Without the purchase of imported water for both direct deliveries and replenishment, the severe overdraft of the Central Groundwater Basin would have continued to deteriorate.
			X							(9) WRD has not "failed to do its job" by "allowing groundwater table to decline and allowing portions of the basin to fall to very low levels." This false assertion demonstrates CBMWD's remarkable ignorance of the	WRD has had over 50 years to refill the Central Groundwater Basin and correct the overdraft. Instead of correcting the overdraft, it had to declare a "water emergency" in November, 2010. If enough imported water had been purchased and spread by WRD to correct the overdraft, groundwater levels would be higher and a drought emergency

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										groundwater basin and hydrogeology.	<p>declaration might not have been necessary.</p> <p>In FY 2007/08 and 2008/09, WRD did not purchase any imported water for replenishment. This exacerbated the decline in groundwater levels.</p>
			X							<p>(10) It is incorrect to say that "WRD has rebuffed a Superior Court order by allowing groundwater storage." WRD has been storing water since 1959 by putting imported and recycled water in the aquifers (storing it) for subsequent extraction by the groundwater producers.</p>	<p>The previously cited July 2010 ruling by Judge Kendig found that WRD's motion to amend the Judgment "conflicts with statutory law set forth in the Water Code and Government Code, and would expand WRD's powers beyond those granted by the Legislature". Judge Kendig's ruling means that WRD's authority is limited to replenishment only.</p> <p>The previously cited ruling by Judge Kendig also found that "the original Judgment did not encompass storage rights and any attempt to modify the Judgment to include storage rights is beyond this court's jurisdiction". If WRD has been storing water for any purpose other than replenishment, this activity is outside of the Judgment and "would expand WRD's powers beyond those granted by the Legislature".</p> <p>Water Code Section 71000 et seq provides CBMWD with the statutory authority to "acquire, control, distribute, store, spread, sink, treat, purify, recycle, recapture, and salvage any water, including sewage and storm waters, for the beneficial use or uses of the district, its inhabitants, or the owners of rights to water in the district". This specific statutory authority to store water is the basis for our proposed Plan to use storage to enhance regional water supply management.</p>
									X	<p>(11) There are not "three large natural aquifers" in the Central Basin. As any Department of Water Resources <i>Bulletin</i> on the matter reports, there are at least 10.</p>	<p>The U.S. Geological Survey Water Resources Investigation Report (WRIR) 03-04065 dated 2003 and titled, "Geohydrology, Geochemistry, and Ground-Water Simulation-Optimization of the Central and West Coast Basins, Los Angeles County, California" shows that there are four main aquifer systems in the Central Basin including the Recent, Lakewood, Upper San Pedro, and Lower San Pedro aquifer systems (see pages 5 to 19 of report). We understand and agree that there are multiple individual aquifer units within these four aquifer systems. The proposed Plan will likely focus on the Lakewood, Upper San Pedro and Lower San Pedro aquifer systems, although some storage capacity may be available for utilization in the Recent aquifer system.</p>
									X	<p>(12) WRD's replenishment rate did not go up 19% in 2010. It went up 12.7% in part due to CBMWD's 13% increase in imported water rates. This rate includes a 30% increase in indefensible surcharges on water WRD buys for spreading. Further, CBMWD's water service charge to WRD has increased over 400% since 2008.</p>	<p>In Fiscal Year (FY) 2008/09 the WRD's replenishment assessment was \$153.00/acre-foot. In FY 2009/10 the WRD replenishment assessment was raised to \$181.85/acre-foot. This is a 19% increase as of July 1, 2010. In FY 2010/11 the WRD replenishment assessment was raised again to \$205.00/acre-foot. This is an additional 12.7% increase. The combined increase for the two year period was 31.7%.</p> <p>Further, in April of 2011, Judge Chalfant ruled that WRD violated Proposition 218</p>

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											requirements when it imposed recent rate increases. CBMWD awaits clarification of the Chalfant decision and its potential to reduce the cost of water for CBMWD's residents.
									X	(13) It is false to assert that WRD "secured minimal amounts of water to replenish the basin" in 2010. In fact, WRD purchased 26,286 acre-feet of imported water from CBMWD, well above the 21,000 acre-foot average typically budgeted.	The statement that WRD has "secured minimal amounts of water to replenish the basin" refers to the recent past. Specifically, in FY 2007/08 and 2008/09, WRD did not purchase any imported water for replenishment.
									X	(14) Other inaccuracies, misrepresentations, and falsehoods are marbled throughout CBMWD's written materials reflecting more of a political polemic against WRD than a reasoned, professional understanding of groundwater, hydrogeology or the role a legally permissible storage and extraction program can play in the water resources future of Southern California.	The CEQA process encourages a meaningful exchange of information, including corrections of misrepresentations and falsehoods. The provision of specifics from the Commentor would allow for CBMWD to respond as appropriate. We look forward to the submittal of more specific references in this regard.
		X								(15) It is not possible for the Water Replenishment District (WRD) or any other interested party to comment on a "proposed project" that is not described in the documents your agency has released in connection with its Notice of Preparation for a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR).	Providing more specific details pertaining to the Proposed Program would risk presenting a pre-determined Program that would undermine the scoping process. CBMWD agrees that some level of specificity is required during the CEQA process, but it is more appropriately provided in the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Reports to allow for careful consideration and, where warranted, inclusion in the final Program Design.
									X	(16) We encourage Central Basin Municipal Water District to abandon the pretense and folly that cloaks the Program Environmental Impact Report for Groundwater Storage.	CBMWD respectfully disagrees with the assertion that the CEQA process has been undertaken under a "cloak of pretense and folly". The CEQA process, by design, is an "inclusive process" that requires the participation and consideration of all interested parties, Public and Private. Further, the Central Basin Municipal Water District has proposed this Groundwater Storage Program to accomplish the goals documented in the NOP, all of which are designed in consideration of eliminating ongoing conflicts within the Basin.