

MEMORANDUM

FROM: RICK ILLGNER, Chair of the VISPO Work Group
TO: EARIP
DATE: May 12, 2011
SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VISPO

The VISPO work group met on May 12 to discuss operational adjustments that would reduce the overall program costs without sacrificing the estimated benefits. Larry Land of HDR Engineering, Inc. participated by phone to provide technical analysis. The group considered the trigger date, the trigger level (at J-17), the target volume of the program and the possibility of using a staggered implementation (dividing the total amount enrolled into two groups and only calling for one of the groups each year or some variation on this theme).

After considerable discussion, and with the assistance of information provided by Larry Land, the work group would like to suggest the following recommendation for the VISPO program:

- The target volume remain at 40,000 acre-feet with our commitment to fill the volume the same as mentioned previously - aggressively pursue enrollment from Atascosa, Bexar, Comal and Hays counties first and divided the balance of the target volume goal between Medina and Uvalde counties, with a 15,000 acre-foot cap for each county. In review of enrollment applications for Medina and Uvalde counties, those choosing the 10-year option will be given first priority.
- Change the trigger date to October 1*.
- Change the trigger elevation at J-17 to 635 feet*.

It is the general understanding of the VISPO work group that these changes, if acceptable to the Steering Committee and EARIP participants, will still provide the springflow benefits at a substantially reduced overall program cost. Using the lower trigger level would reduce implementation rate for the model period (1947-2000) using the SB 3 baseline analysis from 69% at 645 feet to 33% at 635 feet. During the drought of record sequence, the implementation rate would only be reduced from 100% to 90%. The estimated program costs could be approximately 30-40% of the original estimate (\$10,216,000 annually). More importantly, the estimated springflow benefit is the same during the worst part of the drought of record sequence. Therefore, the group felt comfortable with the recommendations.

A presentation will be made at the May 17 EARIP meeting.

* different from existing VISPO package parameters