

Opening Plenary Questions (guidance, not exact quotes)

- 1) Background: As many of you know, long-term financing is a big issue for IRWM's, especially in the Sierra region where we have many DAC's. The individual IRWM's are exploring multiple ways in which they can secure funding, through private foundation grants, financial assistance from local public agency funding, and federal funding.

Question: In recognition of the state's financial issues, in what other ways can the state assist the IRWM's in securing long-term financing? Are there policies or programs that can be implemented that would support the involvement and funding from local government agencies? Is the state coordinating with federal agencies, and can they assist long-term funding?

- 2) Background: For quite some time the stakeholders in the areas of origin, upper watersheds, have been concerned about the "Delta Solution" to reduce conflicts over endangered species, and improve the reliability of water deliveries. Much of their concern stems from the anticipated future growth and water supply needs in the mountain regions.

Question: How is the state addressing the adopted policy of reducing reliance on the Delta with the anticipated growth needs of the upper watersheds?

- 3) Background: The Mountain Counties Water Resource Association, which includes the west-side of the Sierra, was successful in securing an overlay region in the California Water Plan. If the water bond is placed on the ballot, dedicated funding would be appropriated for the Mountain counties region. The stakeholders in the Sierra Water workgroup, which include east and west side of the Sierra, have been discussing the pros and cons of having a Sierra-wide overlay in the future.

Question: What is your opinion of on a Sierra-wide overlay? Please describe any political obstacles or support you would anticipate at the state and legislative level?

- 4) The sierra is a large complex region with many disadvantaged communities, numerous tribes, small water districts, aging infrastructure, mining legacies, significant anticipated climate impacts, forest fires, etc.
- 5) Given your position of leadership and understanding of Sierra issues, what are your top three strategies or advice for IRWM's in the SWWG, to securing and protecting their water resources for the future?