

DEVELOPMENT OF A RECONCILIATION STRATEGY FOR THE OLIFANTS RIVER WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

Progress Report for SMT Meeting on 21 September 2011

The progress with the uncompleted task of the study is as follows:

Task 3: Current and Future Water Requirements and Return Flows

The draft Water Requirements and Water Availability Report was sent to the SMT members for comments. Comments were due by 24 June 2011. A meeting with DWA officials was held on 5 July 2011 and verbal comments were given. The water requirements of Polokwane and Mokopane as obtained from the All Towns' Study report were suspect and the PSP was requested to look at other data sources and update the requirements for these two towns.

The water requirements of Polokwane and Mokopane were reviewed and updated since these requirements were under-estimated by the All Towns report. Furthermore, the water use estimates within the catchment of all the towns and rural areas were cross checked with the water services database and updated where necessary.

The Water Requirements and Water Availability report is currently being amended with the updated information and will soon be finalised for sign-off.

The reply letter on Lebalelo WUA's comments on the yield assessment of De Hoop and Flag Boshielo Dams has been finalised and submitted for signature.

Task 4: Water Conservation and Demand Management

The report is complete. Internal comments have been incorporated into the final report and it was distributed for comments to the SMT members. Due date for comments was 9 September 2011. A short presentation on the report will be given at the SMT meeting.

Task 5: Opportunities for Water Re-Use

Internal comments have been incorporated in this draft report and the report is ready to be submitted to the SMT members for comment. A short presentation will be given at the SMT meeting.

Task 6: Invasive Alien Plants

The report has been sent to the client for sign-off.

Task 8: Water Quality

Comments have been received and are being incorporated into the report after which the report will be submitted for sign-off.

Task 9: Reserve Requirement Scenarios and Scheme Yields

Comments have been received on the Assessment of the Eco-classification report and have been incorporated. The report is being finalised and will soon be ready for sign-off. A report on the Reserve Scenarios which will be completed soon is also being drafted.

Task 10: Groundwater

Comments were inter alia received from Ms Nancy Moteba and Messrs Ernst Bertram and S Kheva and have been incorporated into the report. The report will now be submitted for sign-off.

Task 11: Review Schemes and Update Cost Estimates

The draft report on the cost and unit reference values of the alternative schemes has been completed. The report has been renamed to "Management and Development Alternatives and Cost Estimates Report" since Task 11 only covered the development interventions (schemes). This change will ensure that the costs information of all interventions will be all together in one report. Not all management interventions are covered in the existing tasks and this name change will also ensure that these interventions are covered.

The report is almost ready to be sent out to the SMT members for comments and a short presentation on the report will be given at the SMT meeting.

Task 12: Review or Assess Social and Environmental Impacts

A draft report on Environmental Screening of Reconciliation Options is complete, but needs to be amended once the final reconciliation strategy is complete.

Task 13: Assembly of Information and Formulation of Scenarios

The Final Reconciliation Strategy report is nearing completion. The completion of the report was held up as a result of the additional work which was required on the Water Requirements and Water Availability Report. The expected submission date (for SMT member comments), is 21 October 2011.

Task 14: Final Screening Workshop

The need for this workshop might fall away since the required reconciliation interventions are already known by all and since the choices between alternatives are limited.

Task 15: Public Participation

The second Newsletter has been finalised and is ready for printing.

Task 16: Project Management

Normal liaising with the DWA Study Manager and task team leaders has taken place. Progress Report, invoices, etc., have been prepared.

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J. Beumer
Study Leader

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Date