



SITUATION/CONFLICT ASSESSMENT

Often public agencies and private parties face a potential dispute and need to size up the situation and determine whether a consensual process of dispute resolution looks promising. A Situation or Conflict Assessment is an objective evaluation of the situation conducted by a neutral expert based on confidential interviews with stakeholders. One of its main purposes is to recommend whether a consensus-based process is likely to be fruitful and, if so, how it should be structured and prepared. A well-crafted Situation/Conflict Assessment should achieve:

- Clarification of the issues, context of the conflict, and stakeholders
- Understanding of the interests and concerns of those involved
- A pragmatic assessment of the potential for negotiation and other avenues for resolution
- An outline of a process design for collaboration or dispute resolution

CONCUR has carried out numerous Situation/Conflict Assessments. These assessments have focused on topics ranging from water and marine resource management to military base closures and economic development. Some assessments have been conducted in a matter of days; others have been more extensive, requiring in-person or telephone interviews with as many as 40 individuals. In some cases, we provide the results of the Assessment as a verbal briefing; in other cases, we develop a comprehensive Assessment Report. CONCUR works closely with its clients to craft an approach that meets the needs of each particular project.

Selected Projects

Fort Ord Restoration Advisory Board. CONCUR conducted a year-long, strategic planning diagnostic and convening process for the Fort Ord Restoration Advisory Board, a citizen-agency group convened to review proposed environmental cleanup activities at the sprawling former Army base in Monterey, California. An essential facet of the work was the situation assessment - a series of interviews with nearly 30 stakeholders that resulted in the adoption of near-term milestones to guide and track the group's potential to move past years of unproductive and contentious deliberations.

Shoalwater Bay Tribe. CONCUR conducted a Situation Assessment for the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe in Tokeland, Washington. The objective of the Assessment was twofold: to take stock of the region's critical water quality, water supply, and economic development issues; and to analyze the prospects for collaboration between the Shoalwater Bay Tribe and the community of Tokeland to address these issues. CONCUR conducted interviews with nearly 40 stakeholders, including tribal members, community representatives and governmental officials, and presented the results in a 30-page Assessment Report. The Report both identified the region's priority environmental and economic issues and highlighted key obstacles to overcome in addressing these issues. The Report also included detailed recommendations for convening a future collaborative process.

Crane Valley Hydroelectric Project Relicensing. Under a contract with the California PG&E Corporation, CONCUR conducted a Situation Assessment to prepare for a facilitated dialogue to negotiate the terms associated with the relicensing of the Crane Valley Hydroelectric Project in eastern Madera County, California. The Assessment confirmed the willingness of both PG&E and state and federal and regulatory agencies to work together to identify and jointly evaluate candidate license conditions. The Assessment also framed the critical issues, identified key players to bring to the table, and created the foundation for the negotiations.

[CONTINUED ON BACK ⇨](#)



CONCUR, Inc.

Baldwin Park Operable Unit Assessment. CONCUR was hired by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct an assessment of the Baldwin Park Azusa Pipe Case, a long-running dispute focused on recovering U.S. government funds previously spent on cleanup costs at a Southern California Superfund site. The objective of the assessment was to clarify the issues and context of the conflict, assess parties' willingness to come to mediation, and provide an analysis of the potential for resolution.

Assessment of Water Use Efficiency Technical Assistance. As part of ongoing interagency efforts to implement a Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Program in California, the US Bureau of Reclamation asked CONCUR, Inc. to conduct an assessment of the technical assistance provided in support of local WUE programs. CONCUR gathered information from two main sources: a set of approximately 40 confidential stakeholder interviews, and a more broadly targeted web-based survey. The interviews and survey targeted users and providers of both agricultural and urban WUE technical assistance. The goals of the assessment are: (1) to assess the role and importance of technical assistance to the WUE Program; (2) help document ways that technical assistance has supported sound water use efficiency projects; (3) identify and characterize barriers to the provision and use of WUE technical assistance; and (4) identify needs and ways to improve implementation of WUE technical assistance. CONCUR prepared a summary report in September 2007, synthesizing the assessment results.

For a complete list of projects please visit our website at www.concurinc.com

About CONCUR, Inc.

CONCUR, Inc. provides services in agreement-focused mediation and facilitation, joint fact-finding, conflict assessment, environmental policy analysis, strategic planning, and environmental mediation training. Our staff has a unique dual expertise in both the process and substance of environmental decision-making. We are rigorously trained in the art and science of negotiation and dispute resolution, as well as in environmental planning and policy analysis. This dual expertise is the foundation of CONCUR's philosophy: to integrate different disciplines that strengthen our problem-solving capability so that we can provide clients the highest quality professional services.

For further information about our services please visit our web site at www.concurinc.com or contact us at:

Berkeley Office
1832 Second Street
Berkeley, CA 94710
510.649.8008 T
510.649.1980 F

Santa Cruz Office
501 Cedar Street, Suite D
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831.457.1397 T
831.457.8610 F

New York Office
211 West 107th Street #3E
New York, NY 10025
212.678.0078 T