



1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155 (916) 657-2666
Sacramento, California 95814
FAX(916) 654-9780
<http://calfed.ca.gov>

Dec. 3, 2001 Jim Nickles

For Immediate Release (916) 651-9706

Cell. (916) 798-9853

**New Bay-Delta Citizens Group to Meet, Review
Accomplishments of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program**

A newly appointed citizens group that will advise state and federal agencies carrying out the Bay-Delta plan will conduct its first meeting Wednesday in Sacramento.

The meeting is set for 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Library Galleria, 828 I St. It is open to the public, and members of the public will have opportunities to comment.

The Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee will meet at least twice a year to advise the Secretary of the Interior and California's Governor on implementation of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, the unique partnership of the state and federal governments to improve state water supplies and the health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

Bennett Raley, the Interior Department's Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, and California Resources Secretary Mary Nichols announced appointment of the committee in October. The 28 members represent virtually all regions of the state and a variety of environmental, urban, agricultural, Tribal and community interests. (A list of the members can be found at the CALFED Web site, <http://calfed.water.ca.gov/bdpac/BDPAC.html>.)

Nichols and Kirk Rodgers, acting regional director of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, will open the meeting and appoint the chair. Patrick Wright, director of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, will highlight the program's accomplishments, discuss the program's structure and decision-making, and review the role of the advisory committee.

Also at the meeting, the committee is expected to form a number of subcommittees to review various aspects of the program, including watershed management, drinking-water quality, water-use efficiency, environmental justice, and ecosystem restoration.

The state and federal governments adopted the CALFED strategy in August 2000 after more than five years of study, negotiations and public hearings.

San Francisco Bay and the delta of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers comprise the largest estuary on the West Coast of North America. A vital habitat for fish, waterfowl and other types of wildlife, the Bay-Delta is also the hub of California's water-delivery system.

For more information about the meeting or the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee, contact Rick Breitenbach at (916) 657-2666.