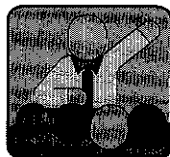


Chapter 10. Public and Agency Involvement

Since its beginning, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program has made substantial efforts to involve the public in its information-gathering and decision-making process in order to ensure that Program goals and objectives are understood and supported. Public and agency involvement includes public workshops, multi-cultural outreach, community presentations, scientific review panels, and special teams made up of agency experts.

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10. Public and Agency Involvement

10.1 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public and agency involvement through outreach and education has been a focus of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (Program) since its initial stages. These efforts have helped shape the Program, as well as develop the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR. For nearly 3 years, the Program has relied on continuous comments and involvement from individuals and groups who have a stake in finding long-term solutions for the problems affecting the Bay-Delta system.

Participants representing rural, agricultural, municipal, and industrial water users; fishing interests; environmental organizations; businesses; and the general public have helped to define problems and evaluate alternatives to solve the challenges confronting the Bay-Delta system.

To date, thousands of Californians have contributed to the Program by participating in public meetings and workshops—volunteering time, sharing expertise, and expressing ideas and opinions.

During Phase I, which ended in September 1996, the Program held scoping meetings, technical workshops, public information meetings, and public Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) work group meetings. This commitment to active public involvement has continued through Phase II, with additional public meetings, presentations before focused groups, media outreach, special newsletter mailings, regularly updated information on the Program's website, and a toll-free public information telephone line.

10.1.1 PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Beginning in August 1995, 12 day-long workshops were conducted in Sacramento over a 3-year period—four workshops in 1995, five in 1996, and three in 1997. Open to the general public, the intensive working sessions focused on providing a solid framework for the solution-finding process. Using brainstorming techniques, informal debate, and analysis, an average of 100 participants at each workshop worked together to help identify the problems facing the Bay-Delta system, establish objectives for problem solving, and develop the actions necessary to achieve the objectives.

Public and agency involvement through outreach and education has been a focus of the Program since its initial stages.

During Phase I, which ended in September 1996, the Program held scoping meetings, technical workshops, public information meetings, and public Bay-Delta Advisory Council work group meetings.



These workshops were a vital part of the public outreach program and provided an opportunity for the many different interests in the Bay-Delta system to share perspectives, reach common understandings, and develop cooperative solution alternatives.

Public workshops provided an opportunity for the many different interests in the Bay-Delta system to share perspectives, reach common understandings, and develop cooperative solution alternatives.

10.1.2 PUBLIC MEETINGS

In addition to the public workshops, 28 open-house public meetings were conducted to provide the general public who did not attend public workshops or other meetings the opportunity to learn about the Program and to express their views and concerns. Each public meeting featured an informal, open-house session with displays and informational materials, followed by a prepared general presentation about the Program.

During Phase I, 14 public meetings were held in 13 communities throughout California to identify problems in the Bay-Delta system, including Redding, Red Bluff, Sacramento, Walnut Grove, Stockton, Oakland (2), Los Banos, Fresno, Bakersfield, Pasadena, Long Beach, Costa Mesa, and San Diego. Between September 1995 and May 1996, another six public meetings were held to acquaint Californians with the Program, solicit early public comment on Bay-Delta possible solutions, and gauge local public reaction to the 10 draft alternatives. During Phase II, eight more public meetings were held in communities from Chico to San Diego in 1997, to inform stakeholders and the public about the Program's progress and the process to identify a preferred alternative, as well as to solicit input on the alternatives. Two additional public meetings were held following the end of the March 1998 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR comment period: on Roberts Island on July 27, 1998, and in Stockton on September 9, 1998—both Delta communities. These additional meetings were in conjunction with a BDAC meeting.

During Phase I, 14 public meetings were held in 13 communities throughout California to identify problems in the Bay-Delta system

Notices for the public meetings were sent to addresses on the Program public outreach database, and meeting packets were sent to all key agency staff and other target audiences. To encourage participation at the events, the Program conducted heavy advance publicity before each meeting. Attendance ranged from 23 to 200 at each meeting. Total attendance for all the meetings was more than 2,000.

10.1.3 PROGRAMMATIC EIS/EIR SCOPING AND COMMENT MEETINGS

As part of the programmatic EIS/EIR process, eight scoping meetings were held around the state to solicit input into the scope of the environmental review process. All scoping meetings were held in April 1996—in Oakland, Walnut Grove, Red Bluff, Long Beach, San Diego, Pasadena, Bakersfield, and Sacramento.

As part of the programmatic EIS/EIR process, eight scoping meetings were held around the state to solicit input into the scope of the environmental review process.

Seventeen public hearings were held across the state to gain input into the March 1998 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR. More than 400 people spoke at these hearings, which were held in Ontario, Fresno, Oakland, Burbank, Bakersfield, Santa Cruz, Irvine, Walnut Grove, Chico, San Diego, Pittsburg, Redding, San Jose, Vacaville, Yuba City, Stockton,



and Santa Rosa. A similar public hearing effort is scheduled for public comments about this Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR.

10.1.4 REVISED PHASE II REPORT WORKSHOPS

The Revised Phase II Report, outlining the selection process for the Preferred Program Alternative, was released in December 1998. In January 1999, the Program held five public workshops about the revised report. Workshops averaged about 40 participants each, and were held as far north as Red Bluff and as far south as San Diego. Other public workshop cities included Lodi, San Jose, and Visalia.

10.1.5 MULTI-CULTURAL PUBLIC OUTREACH

Because of California's diverse population, public outreach efforts are designed to reach minority communities. These efforts recognize that in each cultural and ethnic community, the messages about the Program, the methods for dissemination, and the approaches to soliciting involvement and input differ significantly.

Notices about the March 1998 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR release and the public meetings were placed in several ethnic media outlets, such as Asianweek, Los Angeles Sentinel, Oakland Post, La Opinion, El Sol, and La Voz De La Frantera. These efforts were duplicated with the release of the December 1998 Revised Phase II Report and this document, the June 1999 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR.

Program staff interviewed and met with several stakeholders, representing minority and multicultural business, government, agriculture, social services, and industry, to discuss the Program. The Program overview fact sheet was translated into Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese. Notices regarding the availability of these translated documents and public meeting notices were sent to state-wide media outlets that target multi-cultural communities. The fact sheets also are available on the Program's website.

In each cultural and ethnic community, the messages about the Program, the methods for dissemination, and the approaches to soliciting involvement and input differ significantly.

10.1.6 SPEAKERS BUREAU/COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

Since the beginning of the Program, CALFED representatives have spoken at more than 100 formal conferences and meetings sponsored by various stakeholder groups and agencies. In addition, the Program hosted several informal meetings with individuals and small stakeholder groups. As part of an organized CALFED Speakers Bureau program, the presentations allowed discussions about the Program and made written materials and audiovisual elements available where appropriate to increase outreach effectiveness.

Since the beginning of the Program, CALFED representatives have spoken at more than 100 formal conferences and meetings sponsored by various stakeholder groups and agencies.



A partial list of the organizations and conferences to which the Program has provided formal presentations includes:

- Agro-Business Annual Conference
- American Society of Civil Engineers
- American Water Works Association, Cal-Nevada Section
- Association of California Water Agencies
- Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- California Association of Nurserymen
- California Chamber of Commerce
- California Groundwater Association
- California Science Teachers Association
- California Water Clearinghouse
- California Water Law Conference
- Commonwealth Club of California
- Continuing Legal Education Conference
- County Supervisors Association of California
- Delta Protection Commission Ecological Indicators Workshop
- Environmental Water Caucus
- Interstate Council on Water Policy
- League of California Cities
- Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- Mid-Pacific Region Water Users Conference
- Mojave Water Agency
- Orange County Water Committee
- Regional Council of Rural Counties
- Restoration Roundtable
- Sacramento River Preservation Trust
- Sacramento Valley Westside Canal Association
- Save San Francisco Bay Association
- San Francisco Estuary Project Implementation Committee
- Shasta Alliance
- State Water Contractors
- Southern California Area Governments
- Southern California Water Committee
- Three Valleys Municipal Water Agency Symposium
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Innovations Conference
- Water Education Foundation
- Water Forum
- Water Reuse Association of California
- Water Policy
- Western Water Policy Review Advisory Commission



10.1.7 EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS/DIRECT MAIL

To help educate the public on the multiple issues and objectives associated with the Program, an extensive library of educational resources was developed. Materials such as Program newsletters, progress updates, fact sheets, brochures, a conference exhibit, and slide shows and videos, are routinely distributed to the public and made available at workshops and presentations.

The Program was a co-sponsor of a public television documentary, "Setting a Course for the California Bay-Delta." This documentary aired on various public television stations in California, including Sacramento, the Bay Area, Riverside, and San Bernardino. The 60-minute program provided a history of the Bay-Delta, a discussion of the Program effort to solve the problems in the system, and an explanation of why this issue is important to Californians. The documentary was developed and produced by the Water Education Foundation, a nonprofit educational organization. Other co-sponsors and participants in the documentary included stakeholder groups and CALFED agencies.

From the Program's inception, a database was compiled of interested public and group participants identified through various public outreach events and meetings. To date, the Program's mailing list exceeds 6,000 names of people throughout the state interested in Bay-Delta activities. About every 6 weeks, some form of written material is sent to this list, describing Program aspects or soliciting public involvement. Since 1995, thousands of copies of written materials about the Program have been distributed to interested groups and individuals throughout the state.

In January 1999, the Program debuted a 10-minute video about the Revised Phase II Report. A limited number of copies are available for public presentations.

The Program also routinely submits articles to stakeholder organizations, such as the Southern California Water Committee, for publication in their regular newsletters.

10.1.8 MEDIA CONTACTS

Information about the Program has been publicized to hundreds of media outlets throughout California. Regular mailings of news releases, meeting and milestone announcements, and Program updates were sent to water and environmental reporters covering Bay-Delta and related issues. While most of the releases are for English readers, the Program also has issued releases to Armenian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese newspapers, as well as to publications that serve primarily African-American and Native American readers.

The Program's managers and staff have conducted hundreds of interviews with reporters from both print and electronic media from around the state. Program managers, CALFED agencies, and stakeholder representatives also briefed the editorial boards of several major daily newspapers: Bakersfield Californian, Chico Enterprise Record, Contra

The Program was a co-sponsor of a public television documentary, "Setting a Course for the California Bay-Delta."

The Program routinely submits articles to stakeholder organizations, such as the Southern California Water Committee, for publication in their regular newsletters.



Costa Times, Fresno Bee, Los Angeles Times, Redding Record Searchlight, Sacramento Bee, San Francisco Chronicle, and the San Jose Mercury News.

Several formal media events were coordinated to recognize Program milestones. The first event, held on December 15, 1995, recognized the first anniversary of the Bay-Delta Accord and featured presentations from the Program's state and federal member agencies. Phase I completion and the release of the three proposed alternatives were the focus of a September 3, 1996 event. A similar event was conducted for the release of the March 1998 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR. At both events, BDAC members and several stakeholders joined state and federal agency representatives to brief reporters. On December 18, 1998, the Revised Phase II Report was officially released after a press conference that featured speeches by then-Governor Pete Wilson and Secretary for the Interior Bruce Babbitt. The Revised Phase II Report identifies the framework of the Preferred Program Alternative. (The newest edition of the Revised Phase II Report is an appendix to this Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR.)

Several formal media events were coordinated to recognize Program milestones.

10.1.9 LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS

The Program has maintained regular liaison with members of the U.S. Congress, California State Legislature, and appropriate subcommittees and local governments throughout the state. Staff visited Washington, D.C., in November 1995, June 1996, and October 1997 to brief key legislators as well as the Program's agency personnel. Staff also testified before several legislative committees, including the Congressional Subcommittee on Water and Power Resources, the California Senate Agriculture and Water Committee, and the California Senate Appropriations Committee. Additionally, staff offered extensive input into the process of drafting SB 900. This bill later was passed by California voters as Proposition 204, the "Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Act," which among other things, provides funding and support for the Program's activities and goals.

The Program has maintained regular liaison with members of the U.S. Congress, California State Legislature, and appropriate subcommittees and local governments throughout the state.

10.1.10 PROJECT PUBLIC INFORMATION LINE/PROJECT WEBSITE

The Program established an information hotline, (916) 654-9924, and a toll-free number, (800) 700-5752, to encourage public input and involvement. The information hotline is updated regularly, and a response system ensures expedient followup to questions from interested members of the public and groups. In addition, the Program developed a web site at <http://calfed.ca.gov> that contains Program information, technical documents, and public information materials. The website is a source for public information officers of stakeholder organizations, who can download current information and distribute these materials to their audiences.

The Program established an information hotline, (916) 654-9924, and a toll-free number, (800) 700-5752 to encourage public input and involvement.



10.1.11 NEPA/CEQA NOTICES

A Notice of Intent/Notice of Preparation (NOI/NOP) for the original programmatic EIS/EIR was issued in March 1996, and a supplemental NOI reflecting the expanded scope of the EIS/EIR, including the Multi-Species Conservation Strategy (Conservation Strategy), was issued in August 1997. The Notice of Availability for the EIS/EIR was posted in August 28, 1997.

10.1.12 MULTI-SPECIES CONSERVATION STRATEGY PLAN SCOPING MEETINGS

Additional scoping meetings were held regarding preparation of the Conservation Strategy. The Conservation Strategy is designed to promote long-term habitat protection as well as recovery of threatened and endangered species in the study area.

Five scoping meetings were held in 1997—in Redding, Sacramento, Los Banos, Irvine, and Berkeley—to solicit input from the public and stakeholders concerning the elements and scope of the Conservation Strategy.

No public meetings were held specifically for the Conservation Strategy since 1997. Public outreach was achieved primarily through either the Ecosystem Restoration Work Group or the Assurances Work Group and BDAC meetings.

Additional scoping meetings were held regarding preparation of the Program's Multi-Species Conservation Strategy.

10.1.13 PUBLIC COMMENT LETTERS

Program efforts to solicit public involvement and input resulted in more than 1,500 letters from private citizens, businesses, and public agencies as well as several thousand form letters and postcards. In addition to the more than 400 spoken comments at the 17 public hearings, the Program estimated that more than 10,000 individual comments were received on the March 1998 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR. These comments were important to development of the Preferred Program Alternative and modifications to Program elements.

Public comments were important to development of the Preferred Program Alternative and modifications to Program elements.

10.1.14 SCIENTIFIC REVIEW PANEL

A scientific review panel was created, hosting eight nationally recognized scientists with broad expertise in landscape ecology, fisheries and aquatic biology, physical processes, and terrestrial and wetlands ecology. The panel was formed to assess and evaluate the scientific validity and rationale of the scientific concepts contained in the Ecosystem Restoration Program.

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A 4-day workshop, held from October 6 through 9, 1997, allowed a facilitated panel discussion with the Scientific Review Panel, which resulted in written recommendations to the Program for refining the Ecosystem Restoration Program. Members of the public were invited to attend, and to provide verbal and written comments on the process. After their workshop, the Scientific Review Panel submitted recommendations to the Program about the Ecosystem Restoration Program. A summary of these recommendations can be found on the Program's web site at http://www.calfed/events/scientific_review.html.

10.1.15 BROMIDE PANEL

Since analyses indicated that the Preferred Program Alternative could profoundly affect bromide concentration (a potential carcinogenic) in drinking water supplies from the Delta, the Program assembled a panel of independent, nationally recognized scientific experts to deliberate and provide relevant recommendations. Panelists were collaboratively chosen by members of the Water Quality Technical Group. The panelists areas of expertise included chemistry of DBP formation, source control, health effects of DPBs, water treatment, and drinking water regulation development. The panel met on September 8 and 9, 1998, and published its report in November 1998.

The Program assembled a panel of independent, nationally recognized scientific experts to deliberate and provide relevant recommendations about bromide.

10.1.16 DIVERSION EFFECTS ON FISHERIES TEAM

The Diversion Effects on Fisheries Team (DEFT) was formed in February 1998 to evaluate the technical issues related to diversion impacts on fisheries. DEFT members include stakeholders and representatives from member agencies. Since it was formed, DEFT has met regularly to evaluate the likelihood of fisheries recovery under the three alternatives presented in March 1998, and to develop modified alternatives that would recover fish species. DEFT developed a list of seven entrainment losses or other effects that needed to be reduced, as well as eight programmatic actions to maximize the chances of a through-Delta conveyance meeting the Program purpose. These lists are summarized in the December 1998 Revised Phase II Report. DEFT continues to meet regularly to discuss the potential effects on fisheries from water project operations.

The Diversion Effects on Fisheries Team (DEFT) was formed in February 1998 to evaluate the technical issues related to diversion impacts on fisheries.

10.1.17 BAY-DELTA ADVISORY COUNCIL

The BDAC was established in May 1995 under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Formed to assist Program leaders, the council consists of 31 stakeholder representatives appointed by then-Governor Wilson and President Clinton, through Secretary of the Interior Babbitt. BDAC members came from diverse backgrounds and represent water districts and utilities, environmental organizations, the California Farm Bureau, and sport fishing organizations from throughout the state. The group of citizen advisors initially were commissioned to help define problems in the Bay-Delta system, assure broad public participation, comment on environmental reports, and advise on proposed solutions.

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In October 1998, consultants conducted interviews of most BDAC members and some Program staff to evaluate the effectiveness of the council and its work groups. In all, 44 people were interviewed to assess the role and effectiveness of the council and its work groups in advising the Program on key policies and Program components. The results of the evaluation were presented to BDAC at its January 1999 meeting. Among the highlights of the consultant's report:

- BDAC should focus on three critical issues during 1999: (1) reaching agreement on the staged approach to the Preferred Program Alternative, (2) resolving the complex issues of Program governance, and (3) financing the Program.
- BDAC should continue a regular schedule of meetings through 1999, about half of which should be held outside Sacramento. BDAC deliberations should focus on a narrowed set of Program policy topics. To obtain the greatest benefit from these sessions, stakeholder and BDAC panels as well as facilitated break-out groups should be used.
- Certain BDAC work groups should be retired and others restructured to develop alternate, task-focused public venues for input on specific Program components. Some of these public meetings should be convened in conjunction with BDAC meetings.
- CALFED Policy Group members routinely should be included at BDAC meetings to strengthen communication and interchange between the groups.
- BDAC's role should be clarified via a public input process, such as the Ecosystem Roundtable. Participation guidelines for BDAC members in 1999 should be adopted to supplement those adopted in November 1996.

BDAC is scheduled to meet monthly through September 1999, at which time it is scheduled to meet monthly until the Final Programmatic EIS/EIR is released.

10.1.18 BDAC WORK GROUPS

Six subgroups to BDAC provided input into specialized areas of the Program. Each subgroup held regular public meetings to study specific Program areas. As a result of the BDAC consultant's findings, some of these work groups will be retired or restructured.

Water Use Efficiency Work Group. The seven-member Water Use Efficiency Work Group addresses policy issues related to efficient water use and water demand management. Categories considered by the group include urban water conservation, agricultural water conservation, water recycling, and temporary or permanent land fallowing. No changes were recommended for this work group.

BDAC is scheduled to meet monthly through September 1999, at which time it is scheduled to meet monthly until the Final Programmatic EIS/EIR is released.

The seven-member Water Use Efficiency Work Group addresses policy issues related to efficient water use and water demand management.



Key questions of the work group include:

- What general approach is most appropriate to implement water use efficiency measures—regulatory, market, or a combination?
- How can water use efficiency be structured to complement the other water supply components of each alternative?
- What is the appropriate level of effort for water use efficiency measures in each alternative, and how should the level be set?
- Should water use efficiency measures be specified in alternatives, or should a target level of reduced demand be specified and the selection of measures left to water users?

The work group produced summaries of each of these issues for BDAC to promote a better understanding and consideration by the full BDAC. Products developed by the group have been critical in Phase II development of the Preferred Program Alternative.

Ecosystem Restoration Work Group. This work group's primary focus was to identify and develop options to address policy issues related to developing an effective ecosystem restoration strategy for the Program. In light of the consultant's report, the work group's focus will change to:

- Prepare for the spring 1999 Scientific Review Panel, after which the work group's objective will be accomplished and the group will be retired.
- Provide further public discussion in 1999 about Ecosystem Restoration Program policy issues through focused workshops jointly sponsored with universities or other organizations. Policy areas could include Ecosystem Restoration Program management and oversight, including the public's role; integration of the Ecosystem Restoration Program, CMARP, Conservation Strategy, and Watershed and Levee System Integrity Programs; and review of final drafts of the Strategic Plan for Ecosystem Restoration and the Ecosystem Restoration Program, including Stage 1 actions.

Finance Work Group. This group was recommended for retirement. The six-member work group met regularly since April 1996 to identify key financial issues and problems that must be addressed for the Program to succeed. The work group also examined a range of alternative ways to address these issues and problems that could lead to building a workable consensus solution. Although retired, public discussions about overall finance issues will continue at BDAC meetings. These discussions should focus on applying the principle of "beneficiaries pay," and of allocating Program costs or investments between the state and federal governments and the water users.

Assurances Work Group. This work group will be reconfigured to include a BDAC co-chair from the business or agricultural community and to appoint or reappoint a maximum of 12 members. The Assurances Work Group, which began meeting in August 1996,

The primary focus of the Ecosystem Restoration Work Group was to identify and develop options to address policy issues related to developing an effective ecosystem restoration strategy for the Program.

The six-member Finance Work Group met regularly since April 1996 to identify key financial issues and problems that must be addressed for the Program to succeed.

The Assurances Work Group identified the assurance needs for each Program element and the ways in which these assurances can be provided.



identified the assurance needs for each Program element and the ways in which these assurances can be provided. The objective of the group has been refined to now include making recommendations to BDAC and CALFED about the overall Program, the Ecosystem Restoration Program, and proposed legislative language concerning governance and oversight.

The Assurances Work Group will continue to meet quarterly during 1999 and convene two of its meetings to coincide with regional BDAC meetings. The work group will try to coordinate its deliberations with those of the Irvine Foundation Focus Group.

Water Transfers Work Group. This work group has been instrumental in helping develop the Program's water transfer framework, including identifying issues and constraints, and developing potential solution options. The work group has been particularly helpful in developing the concept of a water transfer information clearinghouse.

In early 1999, this work group was retired, and a more focused group will be convened in its place. This new group will be comprised of agency representatives, water users, and environmental community representatives. The group will address quantifying and defining carriage water, reservoir refill criteria, third-party impacts, and the role of the public in overseeing a transfers clearinghouse.

Ecosystem Roundtable. The Ecosystem Roundtable is a stakeholder forum established as a subgroup of BDAC. Members of this group represent a cross section of stakeholders interested in and affected by habitat restoration activities in the Bay-Delta system.

Meeting on a quarterly or as-needed basis, the Ecosystem Roundtable has provided advice and recommendations to BDAC and the Program on coordinating existing and anticipated state and federal habitat restoration programs.

10.1.19 GROUNDWATER OUTREACH PROGRAM

Appropriate and effective groundwater management will be essential to the success of the Program. As part of the Storage and Conveyance elements, the Program is looking to facilitate additional conjunctive use and groundwater banking opportunities; this could be one way to help maximize the overall water supply and protect groundwater resources. The Program initiated a groundwater outreach component to help identify and address stakeholder concerns about groundwater use and management, with special emphasis on conjunctive use projects.

The Program contacted and met with dozens of individuals—including private citizens, water managers, water district board members, and elected officials—to learn about local concerns regarding conjunctive use programs and to determine which entities would be interested in participating in a locally controlled conjunctive use program. The Program also conducted workshops in both the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys to present the status of the groundwater program, and to solicit additional comments and concerns regarding conjunctive use.

The Water Transfers Work Group has been particularly helpful in developing the concept of a water transfer information clearinghouse.

Members of the Ecosystem Roundtable represent a cross section of stakeholders interested in and affected by habitat restoration activities in the Bay-Delta system.

The Program initiated a groundwater outreach component to help identify and address stakeholder concerns about groundwater use and management, with special emphasis on conjunctive use projects.



As a logical extension of the outreach program, the Program formed a Conjunctive Use Advisory Team. The team is made up of stakeholders and representatives of member agencies. The team has been meeting regularly since September 1998 to develop a strategy to facilitate locally run conjunctive use programs that address third-party impacts and other concerns. The team has a set of four goals:

- To refine and complete the principles for carrying out conjunctive use projects to meet Program objectives.
- To identify the most significant impediment associated with conjunctive use programs.
- To develop solutions for each impediment.
- To identify potential pilot projects and facilitate their development.

10.2 AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

Public and stakeholder involvement is important, but the Program also sought involvement of all interested and participating federal and state agencies. To achieve this, the Program formed several subcommittees and teams, in both formal and informal meetings, to ensure agency involvement. Interagency teams were important in bringing the technical expertise of the agencies into the planning process, and in ensuring that the appropriate agency staff reviewed and provided recommendations at each step. The agency involvement programs interacted with and complemented public outreach efforts, and in many ways paralleled the public groups that were formed:

- CALFED Policy Group
- Public Affairs Group
- Operations Coordination (Ops) Group
- CALFED Technical Teams
- CALFED Impact Analysis Teams
- CALFED Agency Review Team (CART)

10.2.1 CALFED POLICY GROUP

The CALFED Policy Group is the decision-making arm of the Program. Since February 1996, the group has met monthly to review the Program's progress and deliberate on key issues identified by Program staff and the policy. Members include representatives from each of the CALFED agencies (see list in Chapter 1).

The Program formed several subcommittees and teams, in both formal and informal meetings, to ensure agency involvement.

The CALFED Policy Group is the decision-making arm of the Program.



10.2.2 PUBLIC AFFAIRS GROUP

Public information officers of CALFED agencies and interested stakeholder groups meet to coordinate public involvement efforts and ensure broad dissemination of Program messages. This group is responsible for ensuring that ample opportunities for public involvement from a wide and diverse cross section of interests are available. The group meets periodically to provide input to Program staff on communications and public information strategies.

10.2.3 OPERATIONS COORDINATION GROUP

The CALFED Framework Agreement, along with the Principles of Agreement, established the CALFED Ops Group and defined the group's tasks and responsibilities.

Monthly meetings of the Ops Group started in August 1994 and are open to the public. Co-chaired by Reclamation and DWR, representatives include staff from the USFWS, NMFS, EPA, DFG, and SWRCB. Deliberations are conducted in consultation with water users, environmentalists, and fishery representatives, and recommendations are made directly to the Program.

Monthly meetings of the Ops Group started in August 1994 and are open to the public.

10.2.4 CALFED TECHNICAL TEAMS

Several specialized teams provide technical expertise to Program managers.

Agency Ecosystem Restoration Technical Team. This team provides analysis and recommendations on specific focused issues relating to the Ecosystem Restoration Program. The team is convened as often as needed to address specific issues. This team is made up of agency technical experts.

Several specialized teams provide technical expertise to Program managers.

Levees and Channels Technical Team. This team provides technical advice to the CALFED Technical Systems Analysis Unit relating to levees and channels. This team consists of agency and technical experts.

Storage and Conveyance Technical Team. This team is an informal group consisting of the quarterly Storage and Conveyance Workshop attendees. The group is primarily made up of agency experts; however, the public has not been excluded from attending the publicly noticed meetings. The group reviews and comments on modeling issues. In addition, modeling results are posted on the DWR website for review by agencies, stakeholders, and the public.

Water Quality Technical Team. The team has approximately 200 members. Members represent agencies, stakeholders, local government, industry, and academia. The team is divided into subteams, which discuss specific water quality issues and provide scientific and technical advice to the Program. The team meets about every second month.



10.2.5 CALFED IMPACT ANALYSIS TEAMS

The Program established several multi-disciplinary teams composed of Program staff, agency personnel, and consultants. These teams prepared the affected environment and environmental consequences components of the technical reports. These teams met weekly from March through September 1997 and focused on the environment, economic analysis, flood control, water quality, hydrology and water management, and fish and wildlife.

The revised impact analyses presented in this document were completed by Program staff and consultants, who used the information supplied by these teams as the foundation for their revisions.

The Program established several multi-disciplinary teams composed of Program staff, agency personnel, and consultants. These teams prepared the affected environment and environmental consequences components of the technical reports.

10.2.6 CALFED AGENCY REVIEW TEAM

The CALFED Agency Review Team (ART) was comprised of Program and agency staff charged with identifying deficiencies in the March 1998 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR and making suggestions about how to resolve those deficiencies. ART recommendations were used by consultants and Program staff when preparing this Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR.

10.3 FUTURE CALFED ACTIONS

10.3.1 SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

For this Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR, the Program will conduct a series of formal public hearings throughout the state. These hearings will provide information about the Preferred Program Alternatives and solicit comments from the public and other interested parties on this Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR. These hearings will be held between August 1 and September 24.

Where to Find Program Public Outreach Information

- Program web site: <http://calfed.ca.gov>
- Toll-free public information telephone line: 1-800-900-3587
- CALFED News, EcoUpdate, and fact sheets are available from:

CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-657-2666

- Bay-Delta Advisory Council and other public meetings (see Section 10.3.1)
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