



News Release

650 Capitol Mall, 5th Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

PHONE 916.445.5511

FAX 916.445.7297

www.calwater.ca.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 14, 2003

CONTACT: Keith Coolidge
(916) 445-0092
or Margaret Gidding
(916) 445-0065

INAUGURAL MEETING OF CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY OPENS NEW CHAPTER IN STATE WATER POLICY

Program Plans, Grants, and Independent Science Board Approved

Sacramento – Ceremony and administrative actions topped the agenda at the inaugural meeting of the California Bay-Delta Authority, convened August 14 at the State Capitol in Sacramento. The Authority, a unique blend of public representatives and state and federal agency officials, was created by the Legislature last year to oversee implementation of the Bay-Delta Program, formerly known as CALFED.

The Authority reunites long-time water policy expert Jim Costa with his former state Senate colleague Patrick Johnston. Costa was named by Gov. Gray Davis to represent the San Joaquin Valley region and Johnston to represent the Delta region. They are joined by Susan Kennedy, Governor Davis's former Cabinet Secretary and Chief of Staff, representing the Bay area; attorney and former Coastal Commissioner Paula Daniels, representing Southern California; and Alfred Montna, chair of the Feather River State Bank in Yuba City, representing the Sacramento Valley.

The five gubernatorial appointees are joined by two other public members, Marc Holmes of the Bay Institute, appointed by Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, and labor leader Daniel Wheeler of Chino Hills, appointed by Speaker Herb Wesson.

"This is the opening of an exciting new chapter in the history of state water policy," said Authority Director Patrick Wright. "We are extremely fortunate to have public members of this stature and experience working with state and federal agencies to launch a new, more collaborative approach to addressing California's most pressing water issues."

The Authority specifically is charged with ensuring balanced implementation of the CALFED Record of Decision, a document that sets forth a 30-year plan to restore the ecosystem of the San Francisco-San Joaquin Bay-Delta and to improve water quality and water supply reliability. The Authority also is charged with providing accountability to the public, Congress and the Legislature, and to ensure the use of sound science throughout all Program activities.

– MORE –

Bay-Delta Authority Meeting 2-2-2

Housed within the California Resources Agency, the Authority's governing body combines the seven public members with representatives from six state agencies and six federal agencies, a representative of the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee, and four *ex-officio* members representing the two water committees of the Legislature.

After being sworn in, the Authority took action on an array of items, including adoption of multi-year work plans developed by the state and federal agencies that have responsibility for carrying out various aspects of the Bay-Delta Program. The Authority also established an independent science board composed of experts from across the United States. Finally, the Authority approved several grants to local, state and federal agencies to implement a variety of projects within the Ecosystem Restoration Program.

A thorough examination of funding and balanced implementation of the various Program elements will top the agenda of the next Authority meeting, scheduled for October 9.

Details on the Aug. 14 meeting and additional information are available at the California Bay-Delta Authority website at <http://calwater.ca.gov/CBDA/NewCBDA.shtml>.

###

The California Bay-Delta Program is a cooperative effort of more than 20 state and federal agencies working with local communities to improve the quality and reliability of California's water supplies and revive the San Francisco Bay-Delta ecosystem. The Bay-Delta plan is the largest, most comprehensive water management effort in the nation.