

Date: February 28, 2002
To: BDPAC Members
From: Greg Zlotnick and Mike Rippey
Subject: Bay Area Regional Activities

As co-chairs of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) CALFED Task Force, we wanted to update BDPAC on the Task Force. The Task Force was established by local elected officials in December 2000 to accomplish the following objectives:

- Support CALFED efforts to restore and maintain a healthy Bay and improve Bay area water supply reliability and drinking water quality.
- Help coordinate CALFED projects with local environmental restoration and water management efforts.
- Help provide a unified Bay area voice into the CALFED programs.

While the Task Force represents only one of several efforts under way in the Bay area focusing on regional implementation of the CALFED program, it provides a unique educational and policy forum for local government and water district elected officials and other stakeholders. The attached document summarizes our goals and objectives and explains how we have agreed to operate.

We also wanted to emphasize a couple of very important issues relative to our expectations for the Task Force in the coming months:

1. The Task Force is an open, inclusive process that is working to meet the needs and interests of the Bay area. The Task Force is working to identify common ground among its members on regional issues. We feel this will be useful for the CALFED agencies as they implement the CALFED long-term plan.
2. Communication of regional issues and interests to CALFED can occur through the Task Force but participation is voluntary. Groups or agencies are free to continue to work with the CALFED agencies through their own channels. By the same token, we expect that CALFED will seek input from other Bay area groups and organizations in addition to the Task Force.
3. Each group or agency represented on the Task Force has its own mission and authority. Their participation on the Task Force is an expression of their interest in identifying opportunities for collaboration that can maximize benefits of the CALFED Program to the Bay area region as a whole.

4. The CALFED agencies have expressed a desire to rely as much as possible on leadership from within a regional to organize a bottom-up, broadly supported strategy for meeting the region's needs. The Bay Area interests in CALFED can come together around a regional strategy through efforts such as the Task Force, the newly formed Bay Area Water Agencies Coalition, and others. Through the coordinated efforts of these groups, the Bay area interests will be able to work more effectively with CALFED agencies to ensure successful implementation of CALFED in the Bay region. There may not be common ground on all issues, but the Task Force has had success to date in educating one another and identifying those areas where our interests overlap.