

Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee  
Subcommittee on Drinking Water  
Draft Minutes  
Meeting of June 28, 2002

The Drinking Water Subcommittee met on June 28, 2002 (meeting agenda attached).

*Meeting Summary*

Draft minutes May 31, 2002

The Subcommittee reviewed and approved the minutes from the April 26, 2002 meeting without further comment.

Review BDPAC commitments

Co-chairs reviewed BDPAC commitments made last March, and concluded that the Subcommittee is still on track. The Subcommittee will have to maintain its pace through this summer, especially to meet the BDPAC September meeting deadline to deliver a draft strategic plan and work through the ELPH issue.

Draft policy on water quality and CALFED projects

Greg distributed his memo and led the discussion on this topic. The goal is to adopt recommendations by the August DWS meeting, and present this at the BDPAC meeting in September.

Greg listed five items in the preliminary draft policy (attached).

Issues/comments/ideas

- Need to focus on primary constituents such as bromide, TOC and salinity; otherwise we could address potentially hundreds of other water parameters. Also, the title of the policy should be constrained to drinking water quality.
- This is a significant change of policy. What is the definition of a project? For example, fish protection actions may lead to degradation of drinking water quality.
- From a legal standpoint under CEQA, the mitigation monitoring plan for a project may be used to implement this policy.
- As a way to formulate the policy, some joint meetings between various agencies and subcommittees and this subcommittee may be preferred even though the process may be further complicated.
- Comments outside of this group should be sent to John.

Follow-up on June 14 BDPAC-Environmental Justice Subcommittee meeting

John Andrew reported on the last EJ Subcommittee meeting held on June 14. It was one of the best showings on the EJ issue so far from a BDPAC subcommittee and CALFED agencies. What they wanted to know was what we have done for EJ and what we plan for the future. Many EJ concerns are compatible with those of the Drinking Water Subcommittee (refer to the six slides John provided).

#### Issues/comments/ideas

- The EJ Subcommittee generally represents people of lower social and economic status, people of color, and consumer advocates. However there is no well-defined EJ community.
- EJ issues historically arose from projects of environmental controversy located in the areas of the above mentioned communities.
- The Drinking Water Subcommittee addresses a wider range of water quality concerns than just those of Delta drinking water. For example, issues like arsenic from conjunctive use programs in the Central Valley tend to impact rural and poor communities rather than urban populations.
- Access, governance, and disproportional impact are the three basic EJ issues. As long as we keep our focus broad rather than narrow, and keep our communications open, we will work well with the EJ communities.
- EJ members should be invited to comment on the pertinent water parameters when forming the water quality policy for CALFED projects.

#### Preparing for the September 2002 BDPAC Meeting

Draft workplan for the next DWS meetings in July, August, and September was reviewed.

- For the July meeting:
  - There will be presentations on ‘Current treatment, challenges and direction’ from Alameda County Water District and Santa Clara Valley Water District.
  - Start discussion on Delta Drinking Water Policy, and continue discussion on water quality policy for CALFED projects.
- For the August meeting,
  - Plan to have discussions on watershed activities improving water quality.
  - Have presentations from SRCSD on Sacramento waste water discharge.
  - Workshop on water use efficiency and water quality
- The meeting in September will be a very focused one. The Subcommittee will present to BDPAC the draft strategic plan, as well as present the issues on the definition of ELPH.

#### Issues/comments/ideas

- Draft water quality strategy to be prepared before BDPAC meeting in September.
- Each agency’s strategic plan will be different depending upon circumstances. Therefore, we should look at specific scenarios of what an investment strategy might be. For example, the physical solution and investment strategy for MWD is very different than it will be for any of the Bay Area agencies because there are such different circumstances.

- For CALFED, the investment strategies are threefold (based upon the ELPH diagram):
  - All agencies have Delta source water in common, which is also CALFED's territory;
  - Even though each agency might invest differently in different boxes, all agencies are looking for potential financial assistance, policy approval and political strength from CALFED to help the rest of the package come together; and
  - Develop what common methodology we can go through to establish how to reach ELPH.
- Tom Zuckerman's narrative describes what the ELPH diagram is, including introduction and description of each box.
- For the BDPAC meeting in September, schedule wasn't finalized at last meeting. Preliminary itinerary is to have the tour in the afternoon on September 18 and the meeting on September 19.

#### Action Items

- Each member to prepare one-page document on the ELPH diagram (i.e. what the ELPH diagram means to you). It should be sent to John by July 12, 2002.
- [DWP staff to plug ROD actions into ELPH diagram to identify gaps.](#)
- For a utility's one-pager, it should include plans for treatment upgrades. This will help complete the picture.
- The Subcommittee intends to get each member's one-page document synthesized to see where there is agreement or issues. This will be used to focus on where the Subcommittee has disagreed, then help the Subcommittee narrow what the diagram means, and work through the issues to develop the strategic plan.
- Marguerite Young will e-mail Tom Zuckerman's narrative to John.
- John will take each member's one-pager and Tom Zuckerman's narrative and put them together for the next DWS meeting in July.

#### Contra Costa Water District treatment issues – Dale Newkirk

As a water operations manager for CCWD, Dale's job is to take Delta water and turn it into drinking water at the tap. CCWD serves 430, 000 people, including both wholesale and resale customs.

#### Issues/comments/ideas

- Major drinking water treatment issues are new regulations, variability of the Delta as a source, and water treatment technologies.
- Variability of the source water is a key issue in treating water, because it directly impacts the treatment process and its ability to remove contaminants.
- THMs are more of a concern than HAAs, which are relatively low, down around 12 ppb.

#### City of Vacaville treatment issues – Jim Borchardt

Jim Borchardt is a principal engineer with Montgomery Watson Harza, and he gave a presentation on the drinking water treatment technologies used for Cities of Vacaville and Fairfield at the North Bay Regional Water Treatment Plant, which was designed by him in the late 80's.

Issues/comments/ideas

- The key issue for NBA water quality is variability. The plant has successfully treated water from NBA, but there are very extreme conditions on this particular water supply.

Public comments/issues

None.

Next Meeting

**July 26, 2002 - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**