

April 25, 2003

To: Members, Drinking Water Subcommittee
From: Hilda Smith, California Bay Delta Authority
Re: DRAFT Summary: April 25, 2003, Drinking Water Subcommittee Meeting
Cc: Sam Harader, Interim Drinking Water Quality Program Manager

Below is a brief discussion summary of the Drinking Water Subcommittee meeting held April 25, 2003, in Sacramento. This memorandum is divided into five sections: (1) Background; (2) Participation; (3) Meeting Materials; (4) Discussion Summary; and, (5) Next Steps.

I. BACKGROUND

The Drinking Water Subcommittee meeting was convened on April 25, 2003 by the California Bay-Delta Authority (Authority). The primary purpose of the meeting was to 1) review and solicit comments on the draft CALFED Drinking Water Quality Program (DWQP) Plan; and, 2) participate in a joint meeting with CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) and Storage Subcommittees. Other topics included: updates on nominations for new subcommittee members from the Agricultural community, Nominal Group Technique, DHS Delta Drinking Water Policy, DWQP staffing and on Prop 50 Implementation.

II. PARTICIPATION

The following subcommittee members or designated alternates participated in the meeting, either in person or via teleconference: Co-chairs Gregory Gartrell (by teleconference) and Marguerite Young, Robert Neufeld, Timothy Quinn, Ruben Robles, Thomas Zuckerman, Sujatha Jahagirdar. Agency participants included Karen Schwinn with US EPA, Jerry Johns with DWR, Elaine Archibald with CUWA, Elizabeth Boroweic with US EPA, Brian Campbell with East Bay Municipal Utility District, Bill Crooks with City of Sacramento, Dave Forkel with Delta Wetlands, Lisa Holm with Contra Costa Water District, Lee Mao with USBR, Randall Neudeck with MWD, and Lynda Smith with MWD.

Also in attendance were the following:

Authority Interim Drinking Water Quality Program Manager Sam Harader, Authority Director Patrick Wright, Authority Assistant Director Water Management Tom Gohring, Environmental Restoration Program Manager Dan Castleberry, DWR Storage Program Manager Stephen Roberts, Authority Conveyance Consultant Ron Ott, Judi Tapia with USBR, Jerry Johns with DWR, Co-Chairs of the ERP Subcommittee Ryan Broddrick with Ducks Unlimited and Gary Bobker with The Bay Institute.

About 10 members of the public attended the meeting.

III. MEETING MATERIALS

The following meeting materials were developed and distributed to support the Drinking Water Subcommittee's deliberations:

In advance:

- Agenda
- Attendees for March 28, 2003 Drinking Water Subcommittee Meeting
- Drinking Water Policy Framework Subcommittee Recommendations
- California Drinking Water Multi-Year Program Plan
- California Drinking Water Year 4 Program Plan
- Proposition 50 Spending Plan

As a Handout:

- CALFED Drinking Water Quality Program ROD Commitments - (Draft - 4/8/03)
 - Equivalent Level of Public Health Protection (ELPH) Draft Decision Tree
- Materials will, as appropriate, be updated and posted on the Authority's web page.

IV. DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Welcome, Introductions and Updates

Co-chair Marguerite Young began the meeting with a brief review of the agenda and confirmation of meeting notes for the March 28, 2003 meeting. Following the overview, participants offered several updates, including:

- **Nominations for new members from the Agricultural community Update.** Co-chair Marguerite Young announced that there are currently two nominations for the two openings on the subcommittee and asked for additional nominees with an expertise in water quality. David Guy with the Northern California Water Association would like to join the subcommittee.
- **Nominal Group Technique (NGT) Update.** Karen Schwinn, US EPA is currently reviewing the applications for participation in the NGT workshop to be held at Cal Poly, Pomona starting July 29, 2003 and concluding at noon on July 31, 2003. Invitations will go out in approximately two weeks. Karen will provide an update at the August Drinking Water Subcommittee meeting.
- **Delta Drinking Water Policy Update.** DWQP Interim Program Manager Sam Harader reported that a workshop was held April 14, 2003 in with the SWRCB, RWQCB, and DHS. The agencies gave presentations on existing legislation and policies. The workshop gave the Policy work group a better understanding of existing policy needs and options. The work group will be producing a report on the workshop.

Co-chair Marguerite Young discussed the possibility of forming a narrative policy, but realized that it may be as difficult to formulate as a numerical objective policy. The

meeting continued with a discussion regarding the Basin Plan Amendment and options for meeting the ROD commitment.

Also discussed was the recent Regional Board decision on irrigated agriculture permit waivers and drinking water stakeholders' role in the process. Primary issues for agriculture are the complexity and cost of the proposed program. CUWA is proposing to form a work group consisting of agricultural, environmental, and urban representatives to try to work out issues.

• **Prop 50 Implementation Update.** Director Patrick Wright, stated that most of the Prop 50 Implementation ongoing process is available to the public and DWQP Interim Program Manager, Sam Harader has provided a detailed expenditure plan. Patrick outlined several important issues related to the Prop 50 Implementation: 1) BDPAC put together principles for allocation which included a recommendation for statewide coordination of grants processes among agencies; 2) the DWQ subcommittee is encouraged to work with DHS and other agencies to assure Prop 50 funding is allocated in a manner that will help implement the Work Plan as well as help meet the goals of the Drinking Water Subcommittee; 3) SB-21 (introduced by Senator Machado) would contain principles for how Prop 50 funds will be spent. Mr. Wright stated that the Subcommittee may want to participate in the process to ensure adequate funding is allocated for the program and its goals. He is not aware of any significant changes in the May Revision of the Governor's Budget. Tim Quinn, MWD Southern California, suggested Co-chairs draft a letter to the legislature.

• **Focus Topics-**

➤ ***Drinking Water Quality Program Staff.*** Sam informed members that a job advertisement for a DWQ Program Manager may be posted in May, but it will not be coming from the State General Fund. One and a half positions are available until June 2004 through a DHS Interagency agreement. Sam is working to obtain consultants to complete work assignments during the next few months.

➤ ***Drinking Water Quality Work Plans.*** Sam gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the components of the Multi-year Program Plan and Year 4 Annual Plan. He also announced the drafts are due to the Authority on May 5 and will be discussed at CALFED Management Group on May 13. Final Draft plans will be presented to BDPAC and the Authority in June. The discussion then focused upon DWQP Strategic Plan and ELPH. Members discussed bringing forward completed projects and plans to move forward with ELPH in regional areas. Subcommittee complimented staff on the draft DWQ Program Plans and offered the following constructive suggestions:

- The Plans should integrate the ELPH process and better highlight ELPH as a framework for the DWQ Program.
- The Plans should discuss the need for CALFED's Drinking Water Program to interface with Regional Water Quality Strategies into a statewide integrated plan.
- The Plans should state that the DWQ Subcommittee will be involved in developing DWQ PSP criteria while maintaining an appropriate distance from individual project selection.

➤ **Joint Meeting with Ecosystem Restoration and Water Supply Subcommittees.**

Co-chair Marguerite Young introduced the DWS Policy Framework recommendations and outlined the need for integration activities and the impacts caused by the activities of other programs. A policy mechanism or process is needed to identify possible effects of proposed projects on water quality in the early stages of planning. The invitation to the ERP and Storage subcommittees is subsequent to the presentation of the August 23, 2002 DWQ memo to the BDPAC and steering committees. The memo specifically asked BDPAC to adopt a recommendation to the Authority to develop a Framework for a Policy assuring continuous improvement in drinking water quality as Authority Projects and Actions are developed. Ms. Young focused on key issues such as the need for the Authority to develop a mechanism identifying the Drinking Water Quality impact from implementation of ERP projects (specifically impacts on organic carbon concentrations) and the need to limit redirected impacts as required by the ROD.

Co-Chair of the ERP Subcommittee, Gary Bobker stated that CALFED is not about “no redirected impacts”, but rather about balance without mitigation. For example, by shifting to a support role and facilitating local regional plans, the Authority is focusing on system wide improvements in conveyance and storage. In addition, the Authority conducts activities in compliance with the EIS/EIR requirements. The DWQP could help guide pilot integration projects in specific areas.

Members expressed concern about conflicting program goals. For example, ERP’s efforts to expand wetlands may lead to increased organic carbon levels which are contrary to DWQP efforts to decrease levels of organic carbon.

ERP Manager, Dan Castleberry stated that the ERP recognizes drinking water quality issues and has made substantial investments in the planning phase of individual projects. However, additional funding is needed for research. Authority Assistant Director Water Management, Tom Gohring added that the issue is not just avoiding water quality impacts of water management projects, but looking for opportunity to work for continued improvement in water quality.

Co-chair Gregory Gartrell suggested that other methods to improve the quality of drinking water, such as reducing bromide levels, also need to be considered.

DWR Steve Roberts represented the Water Supply Subcommittee and spoke about the five conceptual storage project studies and current compliance with existing water quality control plans. He indicated a need to establish common ways of measuring benefits in multi-use programs before a project is completed.

The subcommittee members support elevation of DWQ issues and will work to understand and include DWQ criteria. They would like to see DWQ included in all the elements of the CALFED Program.

Authority Director Patrick Wright indicated that what the DW Subcommittee is seeking to implement is a powerful policy statement. However, such a policy statement must be thoughtfully crafted, have broad support, and should be formulated for presentation to BDPAC as an Action Item. Specific comments should be submitted to Sam Harader.

ERP Manager, Dan Castleberry stated that many of the 400 projects (at an approximate cost of \$400 Million) include a water quality component. \$10 million has been allocated to dissolved organic carbon issues as related to DWQ. \$18 million total has been spent on dissolved organic carbon projects. Other areas concerning water quality include dissolved oxygen in the San Joaquin and source control issues such as reducing sediments upstream. ERP works with Science Program primarily to incorporate science into the projects.

Committee members also inquired about the status of groundwater storage investigations and the potential for conjunctive use to improve water quality. Storage program staff explained that groundwater local assistance programs have focused on locally lead projects and local objectives. Committee members expressed a desire to get more information on groundwater storage projects and water transfer projects in the future. The issue of conveyance capacity (especially Delta export capacity) was also raised as an important topic for future discussion.

• **Public Comments**

Elaine Archibald with CUWA offered assistance to Sam Harader with Program Plan revisions. Ron Ott, Delta Regional Coordinator for the Authority, spoke about the \$17 million in funding through Year 4 for the Delta Cross Channel and the Screened Through-Delta Facility and the potential water quality benefits. He will present a status report on program integration which will be available in late summer or early fall of 2003.

• **Review Action Items.**

- Letter to the Legislature on Prop 50 Implementation
- Karen Schwinn, US EPA, will consult with Co-Chairs Greg Gartrell and Marguerite Young on NGT participants
- Co-chairs will work with Sam Harader on agricultural representation for subcommittee.
- David Guy will be also be a new member of the DW subcommittee.
- Members are to provide Sam Harader with comments on Drinking Water Quality Program Plan

V. NEXT STEPS

Based on the discussions, participants agreed to a series of next steps:

- **Subcommittee Meeting Date.** The WUE Subcommittee scheduled its next meeting for Friday, June 27. A final meeting location and time will be set to accommodate Subcommittee members' travel needs and scheduling constraints.
- **Nominal Group Technique.** Karen Schwinn, US EPA will provide NGT workshop report at the Drinking Water Subcommittee meeting to be held in August 2003.
- **Equivalent Level of Public Health Protection (ELPH).** Subcommittee members instructed to work with and apply ELPH draft decision tree to their respective regional areas and compile regional ELPH reports for next subcommittee meeting.