

Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee  
Subcommittee on Drinking Water  
Draft Minutes  
Meeting of April 26, 2002

The Drinking Water Subcommittee met on April 26, 2002 (meeting agenda attached).

***Meeting Summary***

Draft minutes April 5, 2002

Gartrell suggested three corrections:

Page 3 – under “Issues/comments/ideas”:

- change bullet item “Local agencies may already ....” to “Some local agencies may already ...”
- change bullet item regarding Quinn comment on need for studies in CEQA/NEPA and 404 processes. Comment was that not all Delta water conveyance project CEQA/NEPA and 404 processes would require information from advanced treatment studies.
- add comment that memo should be addressed to BDPAC instead of directly to CALFED.

Memorandum on Advanced Treatment Studies

Gartrell indicated that he had revised the memo along the lines of the comments from the April 5 meeting. Memo should be addressed to BDPAC instead of CALFED and would transmit the memo to BDPAC.

Introductions

Members (including three new members) and attendees introduced themselves (attendance list attached).

**Workshop: “An Equivalent Level of Public Health Protection”**

Goals of workshop were to provide background information on the issues related to the charge of the Drinking Water Subcommittee and to identify elements, issues, and steps necessary to development of the strategic plan. Focus was on the concept of “an equivalent level of public health protection” and the strawman diagram developed by the subcommittee.

Presentations were given in four subject areas:

- CALFED Water Quality Targets
- Water Quality Exchanges
- Treatment Technology
- Delta Water Quality/CALFED Improvements

Speakers' slides for each presentation will be posted on the Drinking Water Subcommittee web page ([http://calfed.water.ca.gov/bdpac/Subcommittees/drinking\\_water\\_quality\\_subcommittee\\_content.htm](http://calfed.water.ca.gov/bdpac/Subcommittees/drinking_water_quality_subcommittee_content.htm)). Questions, comments, and issues are recorded here.

## 1. CALFED Water Quality Targets

Presentation – *CALFED Water Quality Targets*, Douglas M. Owen, Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. (presentation was given by speakerphone accompanied by PowerPoint slides).

Presentation summarized the work of the CUWA expert panel in developing the recommendations in the report titled “Bay-Delta Water Quality Evaluation,” the follow-up letter report, and the implications of current regulatory environment and knowledge.

Presentation – *USEPA Drinking Water Regulatory Update*, Bruce Macler, USEPA Region 9

### Issues/comments/ideas

- Changes to the monitoring/averaging method and raw water quality variability make the current regulation more restrictive in effect than the 80/60 standard would suggest. Type of disinfection used and system variables can have a dramatic effect. Another way to look at it may be that while source quality is still important, that issues within the local distribution system may be equally or more important.
- A summary of California regulatory framework is needed.
- Public Health Goals in California are an issue for drinking water utilities.
- Br – then and now. Assumed change from 10 to 5 has not happened. Does availability of UV change the conclusions?
- We are not done with the evolution of drinking water regulations especially related to bromide.
- Disinfection method and byproducts in distribution systems. Chlorination – is it a given or are there other options?
- There may be other reasons (e.g. security, other DBPs) for choosing chlorine vs. chloramine.
- Multiple health benefits, including reproductive health need to be considered.
- Delta source water quality improvement/protection is important. Another barrier and provides flexibility in treatment.
- Pathogen and other contaminant loadings in the delta are also of concern.
- What is the role of conservation in the drinking water quality program? (quantity vs. quality)
- Residuals management – environment vs. human protection

## 2. Water Quality Exchanges

Presentation – *Briefing on Water Quality Exchange Partnerships*, Steve Hirsch, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Presentation – *Bay Area Blending/Exchange Program*, Cindy Darling, CALFED Bay-Delta Program

(BAB/E name has been changed to “Bay Area Water Quality and Supply Reliability Program”.)

#### Issues/comments/ideas

- Was blending only considered? What about source protection?
- Relationship to other CALFED program elements (multiple benefits, no redirected impacts)
- Who are the locals? What are the local impacts?
- Other communities are not part of the partnerships. Particularly communities in the Valley (source area). This was a comment about the small drinking water systems that are in the Friant-Kern service area...and that they need to be at the table.
- Are there opportunities to improve water quality for local communities in the source area?
- Fear of cooperation is a challenge
- Ag or other upstream partners for BAB/E?
- Role of conservation and recycling – ag and urban
- Broader public outreach
- Ground water contaminants and conjunctive use may be a barrier
- Quantification of water quality and quantity in all projects is important.
- (for BAB/E) – exchange of treated water rather than source water

### 3. Treatment Technology

Presentation – *Drinking Water Treatment Technologies*, Brad Coffey, Metropolitan Water District

#### Issues/comments/ideas

- What is the effect of source water quality variability on treatment?
- Direct Delta users have much greater water quality variability.
- UV validation – how do scale-up for large systems.
- Is use of chlorine instead of chloramine even feasible with current Delta water quality?
- Stability of water in distribution systems (biological and DBPs)
- Standardization of technologies for widespread application/cost reduction
- Multiple water quality benefits of different treatment technologies.
- Regulations are a moving target. We need to be looking ahead.
- Challenge of treating blended water sources. Systems must be capable of handling a wide range of source water quality.

### 4. Delta Water Quality/CALFED Improvements

Presentation – Dave Briggs, Contra Costa Water District,

Presentation – Randall Neudeck, Metropolitan Water District

#### Issues/comments/ideas

- Improvements in water quality vs. maintaining the status quo
- Water quality as a criterion for major CALFED storage and conveyance projects. Put water quality on an equal footing with supply and environmental considerations.
- Modeling in support of decision making should include water quality, not just fish (environmental impacts) and water supply.
- Degradation of water quality by other CALFED actions
- Storage statewide to benefit water quality
- Source control; Delta Drinking Water Quality policy
- Briefings are needed by USEPA Region IX, RWQCB, CUWA, SAWPA, Water Forum on tools for improving/protecting drinking water.
- Future demands on water quality. Contamination of groundwater is shifting demand from ground water to surface water.
- Is drinking water on a level playing field relative to other beneficial uses? What is the role of the TMDL process in protecting drinking water?
- Relative importance of pollutant sources and costs of source control must be balanced with benefits.
- Water supply and connection to water quality.

#### General comments on the Workshop

- We need to keep a drought scenario in mind.
- Presentations today have been general and that's good but we will need to get much more specific and detailed in future meetings.

#### Conceptual framework for a water quality strategic plan, including defining “An Equivalent level of Public Health protection”

Latest version of the ELPH diagram was distributed.

#### Public comments/issues

- More balance in CALFED projects – more funding should go to small land owners.
- Impact of State Water Project water on ground water basins. Use of conjunctive use in blending/exchange is anything but certain. It is generally prohibited.
- The subcommittee should apply pressure on the Regional Board to make the Drinking Water Policy a priority.
- Relevance of 50 µg/l bromide target with development of new water treatment technologies.
- Should we be working with the Storage Subcommittee on the potential water quality impacts of projects such as Delta Wetlands?

- Other contaminant impacts on water treatment plants

#### Other business

The BDPAC Environmental Justice Subcommittee has asked that the Drinking Water Subcommittee give a presentation at one of their future meetings

*Action Item: CALFED DWQ staff will summarize workshop comments/issues and will put the presentations on the web site.*

#### Next Meeting

**May 31, 2002 - 9:30 a.m. to 1230 p.m.**

Draft Agenda:

1. Meeting notes of April 26, 2002
2. Follow-up on Workshop: "An Equivalent Level of Public Health Protection"
  - lessons learned
  - information gaps
3. Presentation on the Water Bond
4. Agency Funding Summaries; DHS, EPA