

Meeting Summary – April 24, 2002
California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee
Water Supply Subcommittee

Attendance

Subcommittee members and alternates in attendance: Steve Hall, Jerry Meral, Gary Bobker, Barry Nelson, Tom Zuckerman, Tim Quinn, Alan Zepp (George Fraser), Richard Denton (Greg Gartrell), Lloyd Fryer (Tom Clark)

The meeting focused on the following agenda items:

- Delta Wetlands Storage Project;
- Scope of CALFED Water Management Strategy Evaluation Framework (WMSEF);
- South Delta Improvement Program Status;
- CALFED Bay-Delta Program Storage and Conveyance Program Budgets.

The following provides a summary of the major discussion points presented in the meeting.

Delta Wetlands Storage Project

- The target release date for a status report on the feasibility of various in-Delta storage projects is May 8th. This feasibility investigation has been a collaborative effort between state and federal agencies, stakeholders, and technical experts. The major difficulty faced in completing the investigation has been finding common ground among the technical experts with regard to technical and policy issues.
- The report will provide information on a broad range of aspects of the projects investigated, including impacts on water quality, water supply, and construction costs. A preliminary (straw man) benefit and cost analysis will be described. However, an overall benefit and cost analysis is premature at this time. A policy to identify beneficiaries needs to be established prior to finalizing the benefit and cost analysis.
- The linkage between the in-Delta storage project and other projects being investigated in the CALFED program is not being considered at this time. These linkages would be explored as part of future planning efforts.
- An independent science board will review the evaluation results. The engineering design elements have already been reviewed by an independent engineering consulting board. The science board will provide a qualified review of the evaluation and make suggestions for further analyses.

Water Management Strategy Evaluation Framework (WMSEF)

- Staff proposed that resources formerly dedicated to developing the WMSEF be assigned to form a CALFED “Implementation Support Team” (CIST) to assist in coordinating the activities necessary to fulfill the requirements common among individual water management project investigations specified in the ROD.

- The CIST would assist CALFED project planning teams by helping to develop a set of common assumptions and an approach for modeling a no action alternative that all project investigations can use and for modeling and analyses of cumulative effects for all CALFED water supply actions. The CIST would provide recommendations of performance measures and analytical tools for predicting project performance and create a library for most recent data, modeling results, and analytical tools.
- The CIST could also improve coordination and communication among project teams, CALFED Management Group, BDPAC, and Policy Group.

South Delta Improvements

- Alternatives being explored are increase in pumping rates, operable barriers within the Delta and fish screen alternatives. An EIR/EIS will be prepared and completion is expected by middle of 2003. This delay stems from issues with regard to CVP/SWP operations, which are being discussed with stakeholders to help determine operational rules. Information will be provided to the Subcommittee on the status of this project.
- A proposal to make the South Delta Improvements Group a working group of the BDPAC water supply subcommittee was presented, however, the committee would prefer not to have such a working group.

CALFED Bay-Delta Program Storage and Conveyance Program Budgets

- Significant budget cuts are being made to most programs, but some programs are not in jeopardy because of bond funding. There are significant cuts in funding from the state's general fund, and federal funding is at lower than expected levels. Consequently, project and staff funds, local assistance programs, and program balance are at risk.
- The Subcommittee recognized that if required funding is not maintained, the CALFED program would fail legal and public requirements and the Program will become unbalanced.
- Even though significant bond money is available, it will not allow for a balanced program. Loss of staff and schedule delays will hurt the overall effort

Future Meetings

June 19, 2002

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Bonderson Building

Hearing Room 102 A

901 P Street

Sacramento, CA

Draft Agenda Items:

- Delta Wetlands Storage Project;
- Other agenda items to be determined