

California Bay-Delta Authority Committee
Drinking Water Subcommittee
Minutes
Meeting of January 9, 2004

The Drinking Water Subcommittee met on January 9 from 1-3 pm. The meeting was held at the California Bay-Delta Authority office in Sacramento, with a teleconference satellite location at the office of the Cucamonga County Water District in Rancho Cucamonga. Co-chairs Greg Gartrell and Marguerite Young welcomed the group and requested that participants introduce themselves. A list of attendees from the voluntary sign-in sheet is at the end of this document.

Meeting Summary

Report on Strategic Planning Workshop

Charles Gardiner, Public Affairs Management, provided the subcommittee with an update on the Strategic Planning process of the Drinking Water Quality Program and provided an overview of the first workgroup meeting held on December 2. About fifteen participants attended the meeting. Charles distributed a draft summary of workshop discussion points, including the purpose of the Strategic Plan, Drinking Water Quality Program goals and objectives, the regulatory context, and the relationship of the DWQP to other programs. The next steps of the Strategic Plan Workgroup, in consultation with the Drinking Water Subcommittee, are to review and refine the program context, list the aspects that affect accomplishing the goal, and prioritize those aspects. The next meeting of the Strategic Plan Workgroup would be on Thursday, January 15, from 9-12:30 pm in the Cal EPA building. A discussion of the purpose, structure and implementation of the strategic planned followed.

One member stated that he thought the purpose of the Strategic Plan was to assist with the implementation of regional ELPH plans (e.g., regulatory incentives). The Conceptual Framework from November 2002 which describes the ELPH strategy in detail was suggested as a reference document.

Several members emphasized the importance of incorporating the priorities established at the NGT workshop and other work previously finished by the DWS. Charles noted that program activities and setting priorities, including the results of the NGT workshop, would be the topic of the next Strategic Plan workshop. A subcommittee member stated that he thought the Strategic Plan would provide a checklist regarding the Drinking Water Quality Program progress. For example, how the DWS will track the success of the projects that are funded through the DWQP, or the success of those developing and implementing regional plans. Charles responded that performance measures are being developed for the Program and that they will be included in the Strategic Plan. He stated that the Strategic Plan will serve as an umbrella plan providing a statewide perspective that can assist in the formation of regional plans. The geographic scope of "regional" was discussed.

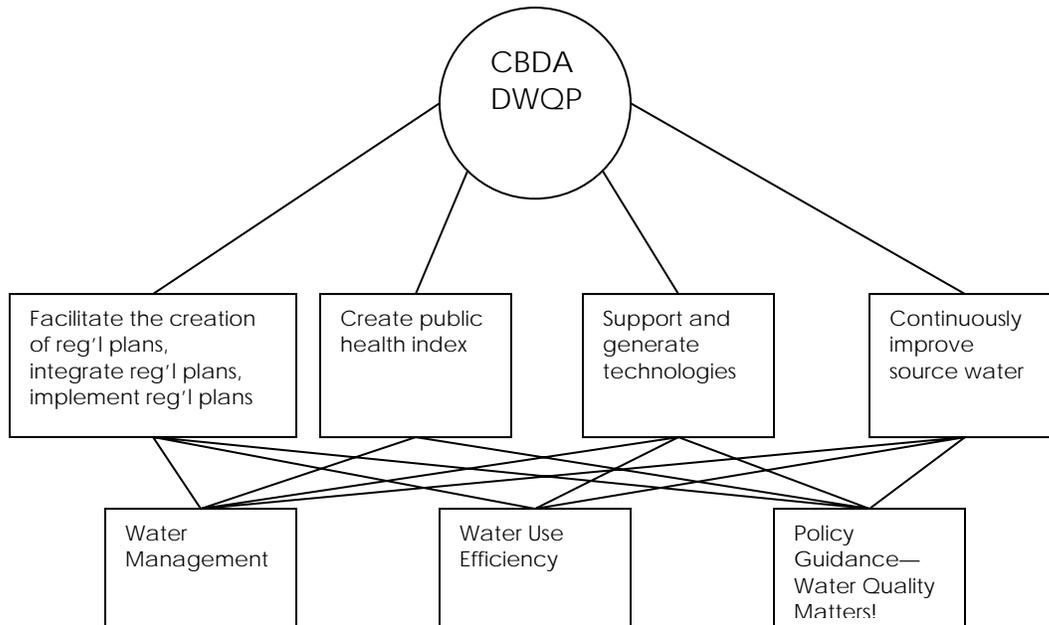
A member of the subcommittee noted that water use efficiency should be included in the definition of water management in the goals and objectives. She also cautioned against the creation of a separate advisory body with these workgroups and writing new guidance text. It was recommended that Sam bring key questions regarding plan development to the DWS or co-chairs prior to workgroup meetings for suggestions. Charles agreed and stated that it was the plan of the workgroups to provide drafts to the DWS to review and approve.

The Subcommittee was informed that in addition to consulting with the NGT Summary Document, the Strategic Plan will encompass policies and principles identified in the ROD, DWQP Plan, and other documents. A Subcommittee member cautioned against straying from what has been written already in these documents regarding the goals and objectives of the DWQP. It was recommended to share the background work Elaine Archibald had prepared for the first Strategic Plan workshop with the Subcommittee so that they could have a clearer understanding of what language was taken directly from those documents and what guided the workgroup to draft what they did.

It was suggested to establish a call-in number so that Subcommittee members could participate in the workgroup meetings. Sam said he would look into that, but that they would need to be careful to not violate State public meetings regulations.

Subcommittee members made recommendations to the text of the draft goal and objectives. One questioned the inclusion of “aesthetically-pleasing” in the goal statement. Another requested that “contaminants” be changed to “constituents of concern” in each objective statement. It was also suggested that “affordability” was not the same as “cost-effectiveness” and it was recommended to refer to the language in the guiding documents of the DWQP.

Tom Zuckerman drew a diagram on the flip chart which captured his impressions from the NGT workshop prioritization process:



Marguerite Young stated that the NGT Workshop focused primarily on source water, thus other important aspects of the DWQP were not stressed (water management, conveyance, etc), but the actions identified at the workshop should be in the Strategic Plan.

The Subcommittee asked what follow-up to the NGT workshop would occur. Karen Schwinn and Marguerite Young responded that the Subcommittee should have a thorough discussion of the priorities identified at the workshop.

Delta Improvements, Process and Subcommittee Involvement

Patrick Wright, Director of the California Bay-Delta Authority, provided the Subcommittee with an update on the Governor's proposed budget. He stated that evaluation of the CBDA bond budget will be deferred until after the March ballot and May State budget revise. He noted that the CBDA budget is entirely funded through bonds (no General Fund money), and that the CBDA would like to work with Subcommittee members of Program elements to receive guidance on what can be accomplished before May. The Subcommittee discussed with Patrick the effects this delay might have upon the release of Proposal Solicitation Packages if there is no bond money available.

Patrick asked the Subcommittee for a status report on the Drinking Water Policy Framework. Greg Gartrell responded that it had been approved by the BDPAC. Greg added that Senator Machado had expressed some concern regarding language about agricultural impacts to water quality, and the co-chairs stated they would like to have him and others review the revised Framework before it goes before the Authority.

Patrick then discussed the South Delta Improvements Package (SDIP), which may incorporate aspects of implementing 8500 at Banks, a long-term Environmental Water Account program, and water quality improvement projects. He said the operating agencies and their water quality counterparts will be holding meetings to discuss schedules for the various projects. The Authority would like to organize the various parts of the plan so that the environmental documentation could be coordinated. Tom Zuckerman stated that from a Delta water quality perspective, a discussion needs to occur regarding what might happen if the SDIP is not approved.

Patrick reiterated the need for the Subcommittee to have a work plan for the upcoming year identifying where funds from Prop 50 could be used to address the priorities identified in the work plan and in the Strategic Plan. He stated that it is in each organization's interest to focus on bonds pertinent to their issue area. Water quality is, and should be, at the top of everyone's list of priorities.

Marguerite Young stated that she is pleased that water quality is getting attention, but worries that its discussion in environmental review documents becomes marginalized in the cumulative impacts section. She would like water quality impacts to be more strongly addressed in environmental impact reports, and not just mentioned in the narrative section.

Members of the Subcommittee were informed that they will be representing the stakeholders of the water agencies in the development of the SDIP and other actions of the Authority.

General and Public Comment

Martha Davis reported that the Southern California Dialogue was finishing up their draft "snapshot" of water quality in Southern California. The assessment is a compilation of surveys from Southern California water providers. She requested that members of the Subcommittee in the So Cal region meet and provide guidance to the Dialogue group.

For review and discussion purposes, Greg Gartrell provided the Subcommittee with a hand-out of CBDA Water Quality projects and the program element responsible for implementation.

Terry Macaulay from DHS reported that proposed Prop 50 ranking criteria for Chapters 3, 4, and 6 were on the DHS website. She encouraged DWS members to review the criteria on the website (www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/Prop50/prop50index.htm) and distributed a hand-out detailing the dates, times and locations of public meetings to occur in late February. DHS is looking for input from DWS and CBDA on the criteria, and is coordinating some with the granting efforts of the EPA.

There was no additional comment from the public.

Next Meeting

The group was reminded of the upcoming Strategic Plan workshop on Thursday, 1/15, and of the next regular DWS meeting on 1/23. Draft agendas have already been established and distributed for both of those meetings.

**Partial List of Attendees for the DWS Meeting 1-9-04
(unless otherwise specified, participants were in Sacramento)**

The following Subcommittee members participated the meeting:

1. Martha Davis
2. Greg Gartrell
3. Robert Neufeld (in Rancho Cucamonga)
4. Ruben Robles
5. Kevin Wattier
6. Marguerite Young
7. Tom Zuckerman

Other meeting participants:

8. Elizabeth Borowiec
9. Brian Campbell
10. John Clerici
11. Bill Crooks
12. Dave Forkel
13. Aaron Ferguson
14. Charles Gardiner
15. Sam Harader
16. G. Fred Lee
17. Steve Macaulay
18. Terry Macaulay
19. Julie Maclay
20. Helen Pelzman
21. Karen Schwinn
22. Lynda Smith