

Agenda Item: 6
Meeting Date: May 13, 2004

California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee

Integrated Delta Improvement Package Update

Description: This report provides information on the progress of the integrated Delta Improvement Package. A status report on the Delta Improvement Package was presented to the California Bay-Delta Authority at its April 7 and 8 meeting.

Recommended Action: This is an informational item only. No action will be taken.

Background

The CALFED Record of Decision (ROD) calls for a balanced approach to achieving key goals of water supply reliability, ecosystem restoration, water quality improvement, and levee system integrity.

The implementing agencies will take actions related to key ROD commitments over the next few months. These actions include: (1) increasing the frequency of when State Water Project (SWP) can export at 8,500 cfs; (2) increasing integration of the State and Federal water projects through shared storage and conveyance agreements (SWP/CVP Integration Plan); (3) developing of a new, long-term Environmental Water Account (EWA) to ensure that fish populations are protected without jeopardizing water supplies; (4) making water quality and reliability improvements for cities and farms that directly divert from the Delta; and (5) increasing scientific studies of the Delta system to support more flexible, real-time management by the agencies.

During 2002, the agencies recognized that many of their proposed actions were interrelated and that decisions on key components could not be made in isolation. For example, the South Delta Improvement Program (SDIP) proposes to increase the export level of the SWP. Operating to a higher level could reduce the ability of the EWA to manage for the recovery of endangered fish, if the EWA assets were not improved. Improving the EWA, however, would require agreement that the EWA would continue beyond its four-year experimental period.

The agencies also recognize that while each has its own priorities based on jurisdiction and mandates, it is important to coordinate decision-making and move forward with a package of actions that is consistent with the CALFED Program's principle of balance. The agencies have been working since 2002 to implement this balanced and integrated approach to decision-making.

Ultimately, the successful implementation of each of the proposed actions requires balanced progress and meaningful assurances that the interests of stakeholders will be addressed. As one example, this means that in-Delta water quality concerns must be addressed concurrent with proposed water supply improvements such as SDIP. Moreover, agencies and all stakeholders have emphasized the importance of integrating the work of the Science Program into agency decision-making.

An initial list of potential projects being considered as part of the Delta Improvements Package was provided to BDPAC at the March 11 meeting. The elements under consideration will undergo an extensive public review process, through a variety of means, including CEQA and NEPA reviews when required, workshops, review by BDPAC and its subcommittees, meetings with stakeholders, and presentations to the Authority. In addition, all projects under consideration will have to complete applicable regulatory permitting requirements.

A draft matrix has been prepared as a working document to develop additional detail on the actions, commitments and schedules for the various components of the Delta Improvements Package. This draft matrix was distributed at the April Authority meeting. An updated matrix will be provided at the BDPAC meeting.

The implementing agencies are working toward adopting an interagency agreement specifying the commitments for implementation and the linkages between key actions. The matrix of actions, linkages, and commitments will be discussed at workshops and/or public meetings, including BDPAC subcommittees, in May. The schedule for these events will be announced soon.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1 – Presentation from Authority Meeting:
[http://calwater.ca.gov/DeltaImprovements/DIP/DIP_CBDA%20 4-7-04.pdf](http://calwater.ca.gov/DeltaImprovements/DIP/DIP_CBDA%204-7-04.pdf)

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