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Agenda Item: 7
Meeting Date: May 13, 2004

California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee

Proposed Criteria for Program Plans

Description: This report provides information on the proposed criteria for reviewing, approving, and modifying program plans.

Recommended Action: Recommend to the Authority that it adopt the proposed criteria.

Background

There are two sections of the California Water Code that contain direction on the use of criteria for annual and multi-year plans.

Section 79421(o) of the California Water Code requires the Authority to adopt criteria for review, approval, and modification of the annual program plans. The criteria shall be consistent with existing State and Federal agency budget development, review, and approval processes. The Authority shall submit a copy of the criteria to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature.

Section 79423 (i) of the Water Code requires the Authority to review and approve, and, as appropriate, authorizes it to recommend that implementing agencies modify, multi-year program plans and long-term expenditure plans on behalf of Category A programs, based on the following criteria: (1) consistency with the program; and (2) the balanced achievement of the program's goals and objectives.

Each year Authority staff oversees and coordinates preparation by the implementing agencies of the multi-year program plans. Included in those multi-year plans are annual program plans describing how the implementing agencies are proposing to implement their respective program elements during the current budget year.

A single set of criteria are being proposed for the review, approval, and modification of integrated annual and multi-year program plans and expenditure plans. These criteria include those specified in Section 79423 (i) and additional criteria based on those included in the Record of Decision (ROD). The proposed criteria are as follows:

1. The program plans are consistent with the goals and objectives of the CALFED ROD.
2. The program plans present funding commitments and milestones that will result in balanced implementation, as described in Section 79402 (b) of the California Bay-Delta Authority Act, for ecosystem quality, water supply reliability, water quality, and levee system integrity.
3. The program plans will result in benefits in all geographic regions covered by the CALFED Program.
4. The program plans will include implementation of comprehensive science activities, including the development of strategies to conduct monitoring and evaluation of project-specific actions based on performance measures, which will be used to evaluate progress towards accomplishing CALFED Program goals and objectives.
5. The program plans will be developed and implemented with public involvement and participation through a transparent process, including the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee and its subcommittees.
6. The program plans will ensure that implementation is in compliance with State and Federal Endangered Species Acts and the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act requirements, as described in the Multi-species Conservation Strategy (MSCS), MSCS Conservation Agreement, and other relevant programmatic documents issued as part of the CALFED ROD.

BDPAC will be discussing the proposed criteria at the May meeting and will make a recommendation on the criteria to the Authority. The Authority will review and take action on the criteria in June, and then submit a copy of the adopted criteria to the Legislature.

These criteria will be used by both BDPAC and the Authority in considering the annual and multi-year program plans at their respective meetings in July and August.

Contact

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