

Date: January 21, 2005
To: BDPAC Drinking Water Subcommittee
From: Lisa Holm, DWQ Program Manager
Subject: Report for the 1/28 DWS Meeting

First, I'd like to thank you for giving me November and December off. The months were much busier than I anticipated, especially with Finance Plan and Performance Measure development, so my completion of the strategic plan has been delayed. Second, Patricia Fernandez (CBDA, Levees Program) is now splitting her time between Levees and Drinking Water. Patricia is a water resources engineer with a background at Metropolitan Water District and the Department of Water Resources. Please give her a warm welcome, I'm very glad to have her! Described here are issues we may not have time to discuss at the DWS meeting. Please send me any specific questions so that I may address them at the meeting.

1. Program Plan – We have official begun the drafting of the 2006-2009 Multi-Year Program Plan. Elizabeth Borowiec, USEPA, is the lead for this effort. A draft plan will probably be circulated and discussed in the March – April time period. Delta Improvements Package-related projects will be identified within each Program Plan.
2. Annual Report – The annual report is in its second round of drafting. One of my goals is to circulate a draft before it goes final, to make sure there aren't any critical failings. This year, the water quality section includes ecosystem, watershed and drinking water-focused efforts, and highlights both the Central Valley Drinking Water Policy Project and the Stockton Deepwater Ship Channel Dissolved Oxygen Project. The Delta Improvements Package is highlighted in the Water Supply Reliability section.
3. Common Assumptions – I attended the recent Water Supply Subcommittee meeting to learn the status of the common assumptions effort. Initially, common assumptions was an effort to develop a common modeling framework for all projects tiering off the ROD. Now, it is focused on a common framework for the storage projects, so that they can be more readily compared. One interesting observation on some initial results is whether a water quality improvement is an improvement or just within the error range of the modeling. Because storage is a part of the ELPH approach, DWQP staff will continue to follow this effort to understand how it fits in with ELPH.
4. AWQGP – Sam Harader took the lead in organizing CBDA review of the AWQGP proposals. Initial reviews are in, and we hope a final list will be available for approval by the Authority in February. They will then go to the SWRCB for approval.

5. WQI Proposal – The University of Colorado at Boulder took the lead in putting together a proposal to develop Water Quality Indicators, in response to the Science Program PSP. They are building off ideas generated through the NGT and strategic planning process, so I have asked them to provide a brief abstract to distribute to the DWS for their information (the DWS can not recommend funding of specific projects, but the proposals are public information, and this will be an easier format than trying to read the web versions.)
6. Program Assessment – At our February meeting, Brown and Caldwell will give a presentation on the initial draft of the Program Assessment. They have finished compiling project surveys and building a database we can put on the internet so our project information and deliverable will be more accessible. They are now working on follow-up interviews to fill out the assessment.
7. Performance Measures – Our efforts are currently focused on complementing the Central Valley Drinking Water Policy work on data collection and conceptual model development. For example, we will be able to augment the Policy’s resources for a more complete collection of drinking water data in the solution area. Building upon this, we are exploring ways to make connections with surface water monitoring programs and with treatment plant operators to identify monitoring priorities and gaps. We are also coordinating heavily with the Policy work on conceptual model development, which is an integral part of performance measures.
8. ABAG Contract – The DWQP has general funds under contract to the Association of Bay Area Governments. This money expires on May 31. We are currently evaluating the status of these funds to optimize activities. This is especially important as the Program has no dedicated funding after May 31, only the small amount supporting staffing. The last time we discussed ABAG funding, the DWS recommended funding regional planning projects. We are currently looking at augmenting funding for monitoring and performance measures with the small amount remaining.
9. Finance Plan – The 10-Year Finance Plan will be published shortly. It is not much different from the December draft, and still does not include the San Joaquin Water Quality Management program. This does not mean that this program is not important, and I will continue to work on getting the program incorporated in the annual report, program plans and to push for parties to resolve the allocation issues so it can formally become part of the finance plan at the next opportunity. The focus of this effort is now on means to obtain state and federal funding.