

California Bay-Delta Authority Committee  
Drinking Water Subcommittee  
Final Minutes  
Meeting of January 28, 2005

The Drinking Water Subcommittee met on January 28 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the CALFED offices in Sacramento. Subcommittee chair Greg Gartrell welcomed the group to their first meeting of 2005. A list of attendees from the voluntary sign-in follows the meeting summary.

***Meeting Summary***

Notes from October 22, 2004

The draft notes from the October 22 meeting were approved after changing the date before listing meeting attendees on the final page to October 22, 2004.

Proposition 50 Chapter 8 Grants Status

Tracy Billington, DWR, provided the group with an update on the status of the two grant programs (planning and implementation grants) being administered jointly by DWR and the SWRCB. The draft Requests for Proposals for both grants were released on January 24, 2005. DWR will hold a public meeting on February 1, and collect comments by February 9 (preferably via e-mail at [tracieb@water.ca.gov](mailto:tracieb@water.ca.gov)). The RFPs will be released in mid-March. Applications for the planning grants are due late April, with awards anticipated in September. Due to their complexity, implementation grant proposals will be due in phases; the first step of the proposals will be due late May, the second step will be due mid-September. Tom Gohring announced that this topic will be on the agenda of the next joint BDPAC/Authority meeting on February 9-10.

US EPA Budget

Karen Schwinn informed the Subcommittee that since the President's budget has yet to be finalized, she is unable to provide an update on the EPA's budget. Karen offered to update the Subcommittee at its next meeting and noted that the EPA's budget will be discussed at the February BDPAC/Authority meeting.

San Joaquin River Water Quality Management

Byron Buck provided the Subcommittee with a presentation on the work of the San Joaquin River Water Quality Management Group. Byron shared a list of approximately 25 agencies and groups who are participants in the effort. The objectives of the group are to develop an integrated alternative TMDL implementation plan to meet current salinity /boron and DO water quality objectives at Vernalis and within the Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel, respectively. When asked if he knew the current boron objective, Byron responded that he wasn't sure, and that he assumed it was influenced by agriculture. He was asked to provide the Subcommittee later with the boron objective (the boron objective can be found at: [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/programs/tmdl/salt\\_boron/index.html](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/programs/tmdl/salt_boron/index.html)).

Byron explained the numerous tools and strategies proposed for achieving water quality objectives, including flow-related actions, load-related actions, and others. He discussed elements of the group's draft Preferred Alternative, including:

- Permitted Banks at 8500 cfs

- Operable barriers in South Delta
- Mid or high Priority DMC re-circulation (July-September)
- Phased Implementation of SJRIP
- Strategic water transfers from SJRWQ Management Group members to address unique time-specific salinity problems in dry and critical years during interim period.
- Modified Stanislaus River dissolved oxygen compliance to preserve New Melones

Members of the Subcommittee discussed the gains and costs of New Melones' releases and storage potential. Byron explained that ideally, the extra water from New Melones would be divided amongst its users. Steve Macaulay encouraged the Working Group to speak with managers about the benefits of real-time management.

Byron discussed features of the SANMAN model, which is the first to be used to predict salinity at Vernalis based on upstream activities. It uses revised baseline data and operates re-circulating storage to achieve water quality based upon several characteristics. SANMAN doesn't model dissolved oxygen but it provides information about flow.

The group discussed the magnitude of the salinity/boron problem in the San Joaquin River and how it influences (and is influenced) by Old River projects, the South Delta Improvements Package, and Franks Tract. Byron explained that Working Group members participate in water transfers for dilution. Members of the Subcommittee wondered if dredging might be the ultimate solution. Byron commented that the Group is trying to see what other options might exist.

The next steps of the Working Group are to refine a summary paper about the preferred alternative, present it to the Agency policy group, prepare an implementation MOU, and seek funding for elements of the program. The Subcommittee discussed how funding for this program is earmarked in the Finance Plan with a placeholder, but no clear funds. It was explained that the total amount allocated for this program is now explained in the text of the latest Finance Plan.

#### Franks Tract Update

Katherine Kelly, DWR, gave the Subcommittee an update on the status of the Franks Tract project. The pre-feasibility study will be completed in June, 2005. The proposed approach and schedule suggests that the environmental review process be integrated with the feasibility study to maximize information exchange and shorten completion time. It is expected that the Feasibility Study will begin in July, followed by the development of the EIR/EIS documents. The parallel review track should take about two years to complete. DWR would prefer a project that is implemented in phases to allow for performance monitoring and evaluation. They are evaluating cross-channel and through-Delta studies to incorporate a regional approach that includes Franks Tract; it is expected that the Bureau of Reclamation would be a co-lead on this type of a project. DWR will report to the CBDA in April, 2005. The contact person for the Franks Tract project is Don Kurosaka, a civil engineer with DWR.

Using a map of the Delta, Kathy explained that Franks Tract is very large and centrally-located to many other projects happening in the area as part of the Delta Improvements Package (DIP). DWR and others are taking a regional "through-Delta" approach to fixing a variety of challenges that will incorporate many water quality and supply actions. The DIP includes: Franks Tract, Old River and Rock Slough Water Quality Improvements, Delta Cross Channel through-Delta Facility, increasing Banks to 8500 cfs, SWP/CVP intertie, barriers, addressing lowered San Joaquin flow and water quality, and fixing the Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel dissolved

oxygen problems. Members of the Subcommittee asked that DWR keep in mind the progress of the San Joaquin River Working Group and the benefits of temporary barriers. Tom Gohring commented that the Levee Comprehensive Program is developing strategies for maintaining levees that may be of interest to the DWS. Levees will be discussed at the Authority meeting.

#### Central Valley Drinking Water Policy

Karen Larson, CVRWQCB, gave a presentation to the group on how the CVDWP Working Group prioritized drinking water constituents to be addressed in the Policy they are developing. Karen explained that the initial list of constituents was very long, but once tiered-criteria were applied, a narrower list emerged. The Working Group determined that four constituents were already being sufficiently regulated, which resulted in a list including: dissolved minerals, nutrients, organic carbon, bromide, pathogens and indicator organisms. Karen reported that the group was currently developing a conceptual model for these constituents with Tetra Tech. A Total Organic Carbon workshop was held on January 18, the notes from which should be available soon. Additional workshops for the remaining constituents are planned. Karen reported that once funding for this effort is secured, technical studies will be scheduled. The deadline for spending Prop 50 money allocated for this project will be March 31, 2008.

Members of the Subcommittee asked about the status of constituents that did not make the final cut for review by Tetra Tech. Karen explained that those constituents go into a category designated "not appropriate for Policy, continue tracking." The Subcommittee discussed the importance of this category and who would be responsible for tracking these constituents. Karen suggested that it would be appropriate for a broader group like the DWS to keep an eye on the bigger water quality picture. When asked about the Work Group's timeframe and how input from the DWS would be integrated, Karen offered to share Tetra Tech's schedule so that DWS input can coincide with upcoming key milestones of the Policy's development.

#### Periodic Review of SWRCB's Water Quality Control Plan

Greg Gartrell provided meeting attendees with copies of a letter submitted to the Regional Board on behalf of the DWS with recommendations for updating the SF Bay/Delta Estuary 1995 Water Quality Control Plan. Under consideration in the WQCP are chlorine objectives, compliance locations at Contra Costa Canal, and potential new objectives. Greg reported that he had attended the workshops, as had Lisa Holm, who provided a written summary to meeting participants. Greg Wilson, SWRCB, addressed the Subcommittee. He informed the group that in addition to the various recommendations from the DWS, the Board received encouragement from many agencies and groups to further study revising objectives over the long-term. Greg Gartrell commented that the Board appeared to want a revised drinking water quality standard immediately, which he said would be difficult to develop and harder to implement.

Subcommittee members whom had been in attendance at the workshops expressed the need to educate the Board about the various drinking water studies underway and their inter-connectivity. It was recommended that CBDA staff provide the Board with briefings on these issues. Greg Wilson commented that the Board would like to hear what the DWS has learned through Program funding and what gaps in knowledge remain. The Board is interested in an implementation plan that clearly lays out what needs to be accomplished by which dates in order to get closer to defining ELPH.

Greg Wilson observed that all final comments on the WQCP are due 45 days from the conclusion of the workshops; this is expected to be near the end of May. It was suggested to provide the

Board with text from the DWQ Program Plan. Lisa commented that it appears that the Board wants more of an update, and agreed to focus her efforts on sharing information about relevant schedules and activities. For example, she noted that the 50/3 standard would be addressed by the Central Valley Drinking Water Policy. Tom Gohring requested that this issue of, and need for, on-going coordination be added to the Program Plan.

Dave Tompkins suggested that when comments regarding the 50/3 standard are requested, the DWS follow the language of the ROD as closely as possible. He asked how the Central Valley Drinking Water Policy and the State Board's WQCP would be integrated. Lisa responded that coordination would ideally occur during the technical studies, however at the moment, the two schedules do not coincide. It was suggested that Greg Gartrell draft a follow-up letter that describes the different water quality studies and timelines associated with them. The Subcommittee wants to ensure that the various Plans and policies coming forth don't compete against each other. Tom Gohring commented that the Multi-year Program Plan is supposed to cover all activities and tasks related to the progress of the Drinking Water Quality Program.

***Action Item: Lisa and Greg will draft a letter describing the concern over timing the release of these plans so that their policies don't compete against each other.***

#### Update on Dissolved Oxygen TMDL

Lisa Holm read an e-mail from Russell Grimes which informed the Subcommittee that the proposed Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel dissolved oxygen TMDL had recently been approved by the Regional Water Board. Various groups and agencies expressed their support or disapproval for the TMDL before the Board made their final decision. It was reported that the related aerator project was anticipated to begin in the summer; load studies will be initiated later.

#### Water Management Science Board

Tom Gohring informed meeting participants that the Water Management Science Board (WM-SB) convened for the first time this week. Lisa Holm, Liz Borowiec, and Greg Gartrell presented background information and issues of the Water Quality Program to the Board. Lisa offered to make that presentation available to members of the Subcommittee. Tom reminded the group that the Board is concerned with essentially all CALFED program elements except for ecosystem restoration. It will convene roughly four times a year and provide input to the Authority on policy recommendations. Members of the Board understand the importance of the BDPAC Subcommittees and would like to have close connections with them.

Tom stressed that although the Board will divide into smaller sub-groups, these subcommittees (or Standing Panels) will frequently overlap and coordinate. Within the next two to three months, the subcommittees plan to convene. Two Board members, Dr. Bill Glaze and Michael Anderson, will be the WM-SB representatives on the Water Quality Standing Panel. Other Standing Panel members will be recruited for their expertise and for the perspective they bring to the specific subjects to be considered by the Panel. A list was provided of potential nominations.

#### Program Manager's Report

Lisa Holm highlighted various topics of interest to the Subcommittee, some of which were mentioned in the Program Manager's Report prepared in advance of the meeting. The final draft of the Annual Report is ready and it looks acceptable. Sam Harader has been involved in the review of the agricultural water quality waiver grant proposals. Terry Macaulay was recently

promoted to Sacramento District Engineer with DHS and will no longer be working with the drinking water program. Lisa introduced and welcomed Patricia Fernandez, a CBDA staff person who will working with the drinking water program.

Jennifer Clary questioned Lisa and Tom about the vague, optimistic language concerning Prop 50 funding in the Annual Report. She agreed to provide revised text by the end of the day. It was observed that in the Annual Report, an overall "Water Quality Program" is discussed, which combines the efforts of the Ecosystem and Drinking Water programs. Lisa commented that this will be a growing trend in future CALFED activities, but confirmed that the two program elements will remain separate for the time being and focus on closer coordination.

Jennifer asked to receive updates about other CALFED program elements related to drinking water. Lisa suggested having a joint Ecosystem-Drinking Water subcommittees meeting in April or May. Lisa also informed the Subcommittee that Public Affairs Management has been engaged to develop a work plan that identifies ways in which the Environmental Justice and Drinking Water subcommittees can coordinate. She explained that Sonja Wadman provided support for the EJ Subcommittee and has been working with Ken McGhee on identifying commons tasks and interests. Lisa agreed to forward Jennifer an e-mail regarding EJ work being initiated by DHS.

#### Public Comment

There was no comment from the pubic.

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the DWS will be on February 25 at the CALFED offices. Several items were suggested for the agenda. It was recommended to investigate other meeting locations with less security. Lisa commented that the March meeting will have a regional ELPH planning focus, where recipients of the DWS ELPH grants will give progress reports to the Subcommittee.

#### ***Partial List of Attendees for the DWS Meeting 1-28-05***

The following Subcommittee members participated the meeting:

1. Jennifer Clary
2. Aaron Ferguson
3. Greg Gartrell
4. Steve Macaulay
5. Tim Quinn
6. David Tompkins
7. Walt Wadlow
8. Kevin Wattier

Other meeting participants:

9. Tracie Billington
10. Elizabeth Borowiec
11. Bill Crooks
12. Sarahann Dow
13. Patricia Fernadez
14. Steve Ford

15. Paul Gilbert-Snyder
16. Bill Glaze
17. Tom Gohring
18. Sam Harader
19. Lisa Holm
20. Jack Keller
21. Karen Larsen
22. Gene Lee
23. Karen Schwinn
24. Lynda Smith
25. Greg Wilson
26. Patrick Wright