

Date: May 16, 2005
To: BDPAC Drinking Water Subcommittee
From: Lisa Holm, DWQ Program Manager
Subject: Report for the 5/19 DWS Meeting

By now you should be aware that the eight new BDPAC appointments are official. Congratulations to Subcommittee members Steve Macaulay and Walt Wadlow. The next step will be to have the BDPAC make decisions on subcommittee chairs (and perhaps officially update subcommittee memberships – we have a number of members we haven’t seen in quite a while!) Implementing agency staff, Greg Gartrell and I have been working on a plan for the next few meetings, you’ll see a draft of the plan in your meeting materials.

There are many other things going on as well, most of which we won’t have time to discuss at our meeting. One thing we will be discussing is upcoming meeting agendas. Implementing agency staff and your chair met to draft a “policy calendar” – outlining all the upcoming meetings’ agendas and locations. I’ve also put together a listing of the topics we’ve discussed over the last couple years as reference. Please review and be prepared to comment.

1. Vernalis Water Quality Station – I had the honor of attending the dedication lunch of our newest high-frequency monitoring station, which was dedicated to MWQI’s long-timer (46 years!) Bill McCune. “Station McCune” is now reporting mean daily TOC and DOC concentrations on CDEC (<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/>) under the station code “SJR.” This data is still preliminary as the bugs get worked out.
2. WQP Comments on the Periodic Review of the 1995 Water Quality Control Plan – The State Water Resources Control Board has extended the deadline from May 20 to June 3. Draft comments will be mailed to you soon for discussion on May 19. Comments will focus on describing WQP activities and schedule.
3. Water Management Science Board – The WMSB met on May 4th and 5th. On the 4th, there were discussions on Integrated Regional Planning, with Joe Grindstaff presenting information on DWR’s perspective on IRWMPs and the WMSB asking questions and offering to engage on the issue. I’ve been told (but did not attend) that there was also a presentation on adaptive management and conceptual models, where the ELPH diagram was used as a bad example! Since I wasn’t there, I can’t comment any further. I do believe that it had some influence on Bill Glaze’s presentation the next day on the draft proposed scope of the Water Quality Subcommittee (which you are receiving along with this report). Part of the scope was mutually developed with Liz Borowiec and me (the second task). At this point the future of the group is unknown, given funding uncertainty and a revamping of overall science scope by the Lead Scientist.

4. Coordinated Monitoring under the DIP – The USGS (Roger Fujii) is taking the lead in scoping out the needs for a coordinated monitoring effort for drinking and environmental water quality. We shared the results of a monitoring program survey (done by Brown and Caldwell) with EPA staff and USGS, and together devised an approach for developing a workplan. There will be three small meetings in June, bringing together drinking and environmental water quality experts of the Delta, Sacramento, and San Joaquin systems, to help identify the overarching management questions, the known, and the principle gaps in monitoring. This will be followed by a public meeting in July or August.
5. AWQGP – The second list of recommended projects for AWQGP funds will be presented for approval at the June 8 (or 9 – stay tuned) Bay-Delta Authority meeting.
6. Grant Updates
 - a. The Science Program has posted its list of projects recommended for funding (https://solicitation.calwater.ca.gov/solicitations/2004.01/reports/selection_panel_01_static). The WQ Indices proposal submitted by the University of Colorado Boulder and Brown and Caldwell was not recommended for funding under this PSP.
 - b. The Proposition 50 Chapter Integrated Water Resources Management Grants are underway. Planning proposals were due May 12, and implementation proposals are due in July. In the very least, we hope to be able to review the IRWM plans, to see how drinking water is addressed and how we can use them to support our efforts in regional planning.
 - c. The State Water Resources Control Board is starting to put together their next round of consolidated grants (PSP target - this fall). The WQP has \$3.4 million remaining from the 2003 process, and will probably focus criteria on regional planning and implementation of regional planning.
7. ABAG Contract – The WQP has general funds under contract to the Association of Bay Area Governments. This money expires on May 31. We have all been exceptionally busy bring this to a close, and working with Brown and Caldwell and Circlepoint to finish our work products on time. Paula Trigueros and Marcia Brockbank at ABAG deserve our sincere appreciation for managing this important contract.
8. Website Revision – I am working on revising the WQP website, including the new project tracking database and a Drinking Water Subcommittee materials tracking database. Attached are pdf's of the pages I've drafted so far.
9. Other Programs – The South Delta Improvements Program has been holding public meetings prior to release of its draft EIR/EIS, which may come out before our next meeting (you will notice it is on our future meetings plan in July). The City of Stockton also released a draft EIR for its new Delta intake project.