



650 Capitol Mall, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.445.5511 FAX 916.445.7297
<http://calwater.ca.gov>

Agenda Item: 2
Meeting Date: May 25, 2006

BAY-DELTA PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 15, 2006
650 Capitol Mall, Bay-Delta Room
Sacramento, California

MEETING SUMMARY

1. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS - INTRODUCTION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Chairman Gary Hunt called the meeting of the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee (BDPAC) to order and determined that a quorum was established. Chairman Hunt asked Jason Peltier, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, U.S. Department of the Interior, to make introductory remarks.

2. ADOPTION OF December 15, 2005 MEETING SUMMARY (Action Item)

The Meeting Summary was adopted as submitted.

3. Future BDPAC and BDPAC Subcommittee Meetings (Information Item)

Joe Grindstaff, Director of the California Bay-Delta Authority, discussed the need to continue BDPAC and Subcommittee meetings until new State legislation could be passed to change the organizational structure of the Program. Discussion centered around the need for a steering committee meeting so that the roles and responsibilities of the subcommittees could be discussed. Mr. Zuckerman suggested that the subcommittees be reorganized to focus on regionalism; for example, creating a Delta subcommittee that would include all Program elements that affect the region. Others suggested that there was a need to better integrate the subcommittees to focus on cross-element coordination by increasing joint meetings or having members of each of the subcommittees attend other subcommittee meetings. It was decided that the structure would remain the same for the moment to enable the subcommittees to focus on the Program Plans and other activities while the steering committee meets to discuss roles and responsibilities, recommend appointment of new subcommittee chairs, and possibly create a finance subcommittee.

4. 10-Year Action Plan (Information Item)

Director Grindstaff then gave an update on the 10-Year Action Plan. He indicated that the Program was in the midst of reorganizing and staff was shifting internally to other responsibilities. He indicated that there were also teams focusing on transition to coordinated actions – how to shift coordinated CALFED actions to the implementing agencies, fiscal tracking – how to implement KPMG and Department of Finance's

recommendations, Environmental Justice Roundtable – the discussion of integrating Environmental Justice into CALFED activities, and performance measures – the process of creating performance measures for the Program. There was extensive discussion about the process of creating performance measures for the CALFED Program. The need for Science Program input in the process and the understanding that creating performance measures is a complex and time-intensive process were also mentioned.

5. Planning for Future Delta Decisions (Information Item)

A number of items were discussed under this agenda item including Environmental Water Needs for the Delta, Delta Levees, the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) D1641 Water Rights Decision, the Habitat Conservation Plan / Natural Communities Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) process update, Delta Vision, Long-Term Environmental Water Account (EWA) costs, and planning for the end of Stage 1 decisions.

Tom Graff, Regional Director of Environmental Defense, began the discussion for the Environmental Water Needs for the Delta. He introduced Ann Hayden, Water Resource Analyst; and Spreck Rosekrans, Economic Analyst for Environmental Defense, to also participate in the presentation. David Fullerton, Principal Resource Specialist for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, provided the additional views on water needs for the Delta. Discussions centered on the description of water needs by the various stakeholders and how the water needs will be reviewed and fed into the end of Stage 1 decisions and planning efforts.

Dave Mraz, Supervising Engineer for the Department of Water Resources (DWR), Delta/Suisun Marsh Office, gave BDPAC an update on the Delta Risk Management Study (DRMS). Discussion centered on making sure the Study was integrated with the Delta Vision process and that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) was integrating activities with DWR. Judy Soutiere, Assistant Chief of the Water Resources Branch for the USACE, was present to answer questions about USACE's 180-day study to Congress and how that was being coordinated with DRMS.

Barbara Leidigh, Staff Counsel for SWRCB, gave an update on SWRCB's Court of Appeals D-1641 Water Rights Decision. Ms Leidigh also discussed SWRCB's cease-and-desist order to DWR and USBR for failing to meet Delta salinity standards.

Cindy Darling, Bay Regional Coordinator for the California Bay-Delta Authority, gave an update on the HCP/NCCP process. Discussion centered on the need to integrate the HCP/NCCP process with the Delta Vision Process.

Jerry Johns, DWR's Deputy Director of Water Resources Planning and Management, gave updates on the Long-Term EWA and Delta Vision Process. For the Long-Term EWA, Mr. Johns described the need for better models to help assess the costs of the

EWA. Discussion included the need for Science to give input on EWA, but Director Grindstaff indicated that the EWA Review Panel has specified that until there are more accurate fish population models, there will be little value from additional science reviews. There was also concern about the ability to finance EWA for the current budget year.

Mr. Johns then introduced Kamyar Guivetchi, Manager of DWR's Statewide Water Planning, to discuss the Delta Vision Process. Mr. Guivetchi described the tentative process for creating a Delta Vision. He emphasized that this process is still in its early stages and that the Secretaries for The Resources Agency and the Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency, will be co-chairing the process and may make changes. Mr. Guivetchi highlighted the need for a coordinated Delta strategic plan that includes more than just water issues in the Delta. There was concern by the members that the scope of the process was too large and that the expectations were unrealistic. The aggressive timeframe and the need for stakeholder education about the need for a Delta plan were also discussed. Members were also concerned about the Blue Ribbon Panel being independent and having the staff and financing available to undergo the process.

Director Grindstaff emphasized that all these issues are important to discuss in the upcoming year as the end of Stage 1 decisions approach.

6. Science Priorities for Upcoming Research Grants (Information Item)

Ron Ott, Deputy Director of the Authority's Science Program, introduced the Science Program's proposed process for the upcoming Proposal Solicitation Package and Science Fellows Program. The members did not have any comments but recommended that Mr. Ott to begin the process.

7. Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Chairman Hunt adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.