

Agenda Item: 8
Meeting Date: May 25, 2006

BAY-DELTA PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DELTA SCIENCE PANEL REPORT

Summary: The Delta Science Panel will describe the preliminary conclusions of its report: “The Role of Science in the Delta Visioning Process”. This report is intended to provide guidance to upcoming visioning efforts through review of the principle forces that are influencing the Delta and will impact any efforts to manage it. The Panel will suggest ways of engaging science in the development and analysis of visions, scenarios, and plans.

Recommended Action: This is an information item only.

Background

The Delta is a dynamic landscape and ecosystem. The Panel’s report will examine the forces of change that are most likely to affect the Delta in the future. Visioning will need to recognize and respond to both the pace and the nature of change; some changes will vitiate future options for rational management. Examples of changes that will reduce or eliminate cost-effective, flexible solutions include sea level rise, subsidence, seismicity, changes in Delta inflows, urbanization and invasive species.

The CALFED Science Program convened the Delta Science Panel, a short-term, three-person panel of scientists with local knowledge, to frame these issues.

The Panel’s report will not attempt to predict changes but will emphasize the implications of the on-going changes that will shape goals and policies. It seeks to anticipate the types of questions that science may be called upon to answer.

The report addresses:

- Some key scientific understandings that can inform current Delta restoration and management, and which might help define and bracket the scope of alternative visions as they are developed.
- Suggestion of ways that the scientific community may provide support for a visioning process to be started in the very near term.

- Suggestions for design of the visioning process itself, so as to more fully incorporate science and technical support.

The report is expected to be completed and released by June 15, 2006.

List of Attachments – None

Contacts

Johnnie Moore
Lead Scientist

Phone: (916) 445-0463

Ron Ott
Deputy Director for Science
California Bay-Delta Authority

Phone: (916) 445-2168