

Agenda Item: 4.A
Meeting Date: May 25, 2006

BAY-DELTA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2006 CALFED SCIENCE PROGRAM PLAN

Description: This report provides information on the CALFED Science Program's planning process and draft Program Plan that identifies planned activities for Year 7 (FY 2006-07) for both the CALFED Science Program and the Interagency Ecological Program.

Recommended Action: This is an information item only.

Background

Program Plans for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program are developed on an annual basis by the implementing agencies and provide a forum to highlight accomplishments, identify and vet priorities, identify budgets and funding needs, outline issues hampering implementation, and provide a mechanism to ensure cross-program integration and balance. The annual process includes many levels of public review, with implementing agencies and stakeholder groups actively participating to identify priority actions through the California Bay-Delta Authority and the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee (BDPAC) and its subcommittees. The CALFED Science Program, and the California Bay Delta Authority as its implementing agency, participate in this process by seeking review and input on program priorities from other implementing agencies (through the Agency Coordination Team) and the public by the use of BDPAC and the Authority.

The draft of the Science Program Plan (Attachment 1) is being presented to BDPAC for its first public review. Because Science Program's role is to address issues that cut across all program elements and inform all of the four program objectives, it does not have a separate BDPAC subcommittee that would put forward recommendations on program implementation to the full BDPAC. Therefore, the Science Program is seeking input on program priorities for Year 7 from the full BDPAC. Comments will be considered and a final draft will be provided at the next BDPAC meeting in July 2006.

As an informational item, the Science Program Plan also includes as an attachment a synopsis of the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) work plan. IEP is considered a Category A program, and its activities contribute directly to meeting the goals and objectives of many of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program elements, in particular of the Science, Conveyance, and Environmental Water Account program elements.

CALFED Science Program Priorities for Year 7

As described in the CALFED Programmatic Record of Decision (ROD), it is expected that the Science Program will develop and provide the best scientific information possible to guide decisions regarding CALFED actions and to evaluate the results of the implemented actions in an open and transparent process. Under the leadership of the Lead Scientist, the Science Program designs an organizational strategy for implementing the broad program objectives that includes suites of actions and program-specific activities that both inform current priority management needs and sustain science integration over the long-term. These priorities are articulated annually through the CALFED program planning process.

In Year 7 (FY 2006-07), the Science Program's focus is on priorities identified in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program 10-Year Action Plan and actions that will help support End of Stage I decisions. Please see Attachment 1 for a detailed description of activities. Briefly, in Year 7 Science Program will focus on:

- Providing support for End of Stage I decisions through programmatic reviews such as Environmental Water Account (EWA) Review, Pelagic Organisms Decline (POD) Studies Review Panel, and supporting assessments of water quality and ecosystem restoration programs.
- Reconstituting and providing staff and resource support for a CALFED-wide Independent Science Board.
- Continuing performance measures and indicators development. A framework and implementation plan are expected to be completed and reviewed by fall 2006.
- Increasing efforts on information synthesis and communication of scientific understanding to the CALFED community through, for example, the 2006 CALFED Science Conference (October 2006), Delta Science Panel reports, and San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science on-line journal.
- Continuing to invest in priority scientific information needs through Program's Targeted Proposal Solicitation Package (expected release July 2006) and providing support to increase data analyses of existing monitoring data sets through CALFED Science Fellows program (new solicitation to be released July 2006).

Interagency Ecological Program Priorities for Year 7

The Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) for the San Francisco Bay / Sacramento-San Joaquin Estuary consists of 10 member agencies: three State (Department of Water Resources, Department of Fish and Game, and State Water Resources Control Board); six Federal (Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Geological Survey, Army Corps of Engineers, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Environmental Protection Agency); and one non-governmental organization (The San Francisco Estuarine Institute). These 10 program partners work together to develop a better understanding of the Estuary's ecology and the effects of the State Water Project (SWP) and Federal Central Valley Project (CVP) operations on the physical, chemical, and biological conditions of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary.

In Year 7, IEP will continue to focus on on-going monitoring activities of aquatic habitats and living resources in the San Francisco Estuary. Monitoring activities planned are:

- Hydrodynamics monitoring
- Environmental monitoring
- Fish and macro invertebrates monitoring
- Water operations monitoring
- Estuarine monitoring

In addition to mandated monitoring activities, IEP also provides mechanistic understanding of the physical, chemical and ecological processes through a special studies component of the Program. IEP will continue these investigations to provide additional information on how alterations of physical conditions and ecological interactions (e.g., predator-prey interactions) affect native and resident fishes in the estuary. (See IEP workplan synopsis attached to Attachment 1 for more details.)

In Year 7, IEP efforts will also focus on addressing the recent decline of several pelagic fish in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta through its two-year workplan that expands existing IEP monitoring studies, analyses of existing datasets, and increases efforts in ongoing and new studies. This workplan was independently reviewed in November 2005. More on POD can be found at:

http://science.calwater.ca.gov/workshop/workshop_pod.shtml.

Attachment

Attachment 1 – Science Program – Program Plan Year 7
(To be distributed at the meeting.)

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