

**Agenda Item:** 4.A.1

**Meeting Date:** May 25, 2006

**BAY-DELTA PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**WATER SUPPLY SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**  
**REGARDING IN-DELTA STORAGE PROJECT**

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**Summary:** The Department of Water Resources recently completed a Draft Supplemental Report to the *2004 State Feasibility Study for the In-Delta Storage Project*. The recommendation below describes the BDPAC Water Supply Subcommittee's recommendation to BDPAC regarding future work efforts for this project.

**Recommended Action:** The Water Supply Subcommittee of the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee (BDPAC) recommends that BDPAC adopt the Water Supply Subcommittee's consensus recommendation included in this paper.

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**Background**

The CALFED Programmatic EIS/EIR Record of Decision (ROD) named the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) as implementing agencies for the CALFED Surface Storage Program. Among the project actions listed in the ROD for the implementing agencies to pursue in Stage 1 is the In-Delta Storage Project (IDSP).

Per the ROD, "An In-Delta storage facility can provide both fishery benefits and enhanced water project flexibility. CALFED will explore the lease or purchase of the Delta Wetlands Project. CALFED also may initiate a new project, in the event that Delta Wetlands proves cost prohibitive or infeasible."

In 2001, DWR and the California Bay-Delta Authority, with technical assistance from USBR, began evaluating the Delta Wetlands Project and other in-Delta storage options. This evaluation was completed in May 2002 and concluded that the "project concepts proposed by Delta Wetlands were generally well planned. However, design modifications and further evaluations were needed before considering public ownership of the project."

In June 2002, based on initial work completed by DWR and USBR, BDPAC recommended that the CALFED implementing agencies complete additional evaluations and address several issues before considering implementation of the IDSP. The 2004 Draft State Feasibility Study reports the findings of this additional work. The work done for this Supplemental Report resulted, in large part, from the public comments received (after a 45-day public review period) about the 2004 Draft State Feasibility Study.

USBR has not received congressional authority to perform a Federal Feasibility Study for IDSP. As a result, the recommendations from the State Feasibility Report and the Supplemental Report are DWR's, and do not represent the views of USBR.

The recommendations from the BDPAC Water Supply Subcommittee (WSS) states:

The Department of Water Resources, acting as the State implementing agency for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program surface storage projects, has refined the In-Delta Storage project proposal and developed a substantial body of information to facilitate its evaluation and consideration. Additional work to add to the existing body of information and further reduce uncertainty regarding the In-Delta Storage project proposal would require significant new investment in field testing, data collection and modeling to better understand the effects of DOC [dissolved organic carbon], DO [dissolved oxygen], temperature, and taste and odor on project operations and potential water supply benefits.

DWR believes that sufficient technical information is now available for potential project participants to evaluate their interest in the In-Delta Storage Project. To date, DWR has not received any expression of interest from potential project participants willing to use water developed by the project and share in project costs. DWR acknowledges that some potential project participants may be reluctant to express an interest in any CALFED surface storage proposal until equivalent, comparable information is available for other CALFED surface storage proposals. DWR acknowledges that the findings of the report are not supported by all BDPAC members.

DWR recommends that further detailed study of the In-Delta Storage project be suspended until adequate technical information is available for other CALFED surface storage projects and DWR is directed and funded to continue the study. DWR further recommends that limited economic study and the use of existing operations modeling of the In-Delta Storage project proposal continue through the CALFED Surface Storage Program Common Assumptions effort. This information will allow DWR and potential project participants to continue to compare the In-Delta Storage project proposal to other CALFED surface storage proposals as work on those proposals advances.

DWR's Supplemental Report recommendation is slightly different from this WSS recommendation. The Subcommittee inserted the two underlined recommendations above. DWR has subsequently made minor editorial changes to the final recommendation.

**Fiscal Information**

None. Currently, IDSP has no State, Federal nor local funding.

**List of Attachments**

The Supplemental Report can be found on the DWR website at:  
[http://www.storage.water.ca.gov/indelta/reports\\_index.cfm](http://www.storage.water.ca.gov/indelta/reports_index.cfm)

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