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Agenda Item: 2
Meeting Date: September 13, 2006

BAY-DELTA PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 25, 2006
650 Capitol Mall, Bay-Delta Room
Sacramento, California

MEETING SUMMARY

1. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS – INTRODUCTIONS 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 Interior, to make introductory remarks. Mr. Peltier asked Chris Stevens, Chief Counsel for the California Bay-Delta Authority, about attendance requirements for BDPAC members. Mr. Stevens said that members who miss three consecutive meetings may be excused from the Committee. Chairman Hunt asked Authority staff to review members' attendance records.

The following members were present, a quorum being established: Gary Bobker, The Bay Institute; Denny Bungarz, County of Glenn; Christopher Cabaldon, City of West Sacramento ; Marcie Coglianesse, City of Rio Vista; Martha Davis, Inland Empire Utilities Agency ; Gregory Gartrell, Contra Costa Water District; David Guy, Northern California Water Association; Gary Hunt, California Strategies LLC; Steve Johnson, The Nature Conservancy; Steve Macaulay, California Urban Water Agencies; Don Marciochi, Grassland Water District; Robert Meacher, Plumas County Board of Supervisors; Jerry Meral, Planning and Conservation League; Barry Nelson, Natural Resources Defense Council; Tim Quinn, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; Michael Schaver, Big Valley Rancheria; Frances Spivy-Weber, Mono Lake Committee; Walter Wadlow, Santa Clara Valley Water District; and Thomas Zuckerman, Central Delta Water Agency.

2. ADOPTION OF MARCH 15, 2006 MEETING SUMMARY (Action Item)

The Meeting Summary was adopted as submitted.

3. Program Plans (Information Item)

Rick Breitenbach, Authority Deputy Director for Internal Affairs and Special Projects, announced that drafts of the Annual Program Plans are now posted to the CALFED website and available for review. BDPAC Subcommittee Chairs will discuss findings and recommendations about the Program Plans with BDPAC members at the next meeting. The Authority will act on Program Plans in August.

4. Science Program Update (Information Item)

A number of items were discussed under this agenda item, including the Science Program Plan and priorities for Year 7, the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) Pelagic Organisms Decline (POD), and the Reconstituted Independent Science Board.

Ron Ott, Authority Deputy Director for Science, presented Science Program priorities for Year 7 and announced that the draft Science Program Plan is available for review and comment. Gary Bobker asked what level of effort is under way with the development of performance measures. Dr. Ott responded that agencies are charged with the development of performance measures. Jason Phillips, Program Manager, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, is leading the effort through work with the CALFED Executive Leadership Council's Performance Measures team. The Science Program supports the effort by providing independent oversight. Mr. Bobker requested that a status report about performance measure development be brought back to BDPAC for more discussion at the next scheduled meeting.

Dr. Ott introduced Chuck Armor, Program Manager, Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) member representing the Department of Fish and Game. Mr. Armor presented the 2005 results from the IEP Pelagic Organisms Decline (POD) studies. The studies held the hypothesis that improved hydrology in 2005 would have no major effect on the decline, and that a number of factors, not just flow, contribute to the decline of pelagic organisms. Mr. Armor presented various findings about water project operations, exotic species, and toxic compounds. Information from the POD studies will be featured at the CALFED Science Conference in October 2006. Discussion centered on the need for urgency in addressing the POD. Greg Gartrell said that the delta smelt numbers are so low that there may be more going on than just the factors discussed; the low numbers in and of themselves may be driving the decline. Mr. Bobker agreed with Mr. Gartrell saying that the situation is serious and a more focused effort is needed.

It was noted that contracting delays make it difficult to take action quickly. Director Grindstaff shared that the California Bay-Delta Authority has a special delegation that allows quick processing of contracts for scientific expertise. Chairman Hunt asked if DWR contracts could be handled by the Authority to get them through more quickly. Authority Director Joe Grindstaff said that the language is specific to CALFED science, and additional language would be needed to expand its scope. Chairman Hunt requested that the Authority proceed with adding the language this year.

Johnnie Moore, Authority Lead Scientist, discussed the recommendation to reconstitute a smaller, targeted Independent Science Board (ISB). Two resolutions will go to the

Authority in June: to disband the previous ISB, and to approve a reconstituted ISB as nominated by the Lead Scientist. Marci Coglianesse expressed concern that there is no lead scientist at this time because Dr. Moore has only been filling in since his resignation last year. Ms. Coglianesse emphasized the need for the Science Program to remain independent.

5. The Role of Science in the Delta Visioning Process (Information Item)

Dr. Moore introduced Dr. Bob Twiss and Dr. Jeff Mount, two members of the Delta Science Panel. Dr. Richard Adams, the third member, was not present. Drs. Mount and Twiss presented a review of the principle forces that are influencing the Delta and will impact efforts to manage it. There was discussion about the impact of urban development on management decisions. Ms. Coglianesse said that the State and Federal Governments need to be able to clearly show the urgent reasons why local governments should not go forward with urban development. Mr. Bobker said the Delta Vision Process needs to be very frank about the implications of management decisions. Other interests need to be a part of the conversations, such as business, transportation, and housing. Barry Nelson said that we are accustomed to water driving the discussion regarding management issues, but the dialog needs to include a wider representation of interests.

6. Subcommittee Reports (Action Item)

Chairman Hunt moved forward to Agenda Item 7.A to accommodate presenters' schedules.

Jerry Meral, President, Planning and Conservation League Foundation, presented the Water Supply Subcommittee's consensus recommendation regarding future work efforts related to the In-Delta Storage Project, as outlined in the completed Draft Supplemental Report to the *2004 State Feasibility Study for the In-Delta Storage Project*. The Committee moved to approve the recommendation. Frances Spivy-Weber seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Mr. Meral presented the Water Supply Subcommittee of the BDPAC's recommendation regarding addressing the impacts from the proposed Shasta Lake Enlargement on the Winnemem Wintu Tribe. Mark Franco, Winnemem Wintu Tribe, provided public comment in support of the Subcommittee's recommendation. Discussion centered on the recommendation's message being limited to the scope of what the BDPAC is responsible for. Chairman Hunt called for a vote to approve the recommendation as presented. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

Chairman Hunt called for a 10-minute break and asked for BDPAC members to reconvene over a working lunch.

7. End of Stage 1 Planning (Information Item)

Several items were discussed under this agenda item, including the Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS), the planning for End of Stage 1 Decisions, and the Delta Vision Process.

Ralph Svetich, DRMS Project Manager, Department of Water Resources (DWR), gave an update on the DRMS project. A DRMS website is now up and running at www.drms.water.ca.gov. Mr. Svetich provided a handout on the 14 topical areas that DRMS is looking at and writing white papers for. The white papers describe the methodology and look at the probability of certain risks through a series of analysis, giving 50-, 100-, and 200-year projections. Mr. Svetich noted that DWR hopes to have Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) survey data this winter. Due to a contracting hold-up, DWR was not able to get LIDAR data earlier this year as intended. Concern about the lack of current data was expressed.

Director Grindstaff gave an update on the End of Stage 1 Decisions and End of Stage 2 Actions. There was discussion about establishing performance measures up front, and designing water storage solutions based on future realities. Chairman Hunt requested that slides shown to the Authority dovetail with the DRMS and Delta Vision information to show how all the programs mesh in the planning of the End of Stage 1 and start of Stage 2 Decisions. Ms. Spivy-Weber noted that watersheds will become much more important, especially in light of future scenarios. The State should invigorate watershed programs to reduce the pressure on existing systems. Mr. Bobker said that we need to talk more about the Delta Regional Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Plan (DRERIP), which originally was intended to run models to help inform decision-making. Mr. Bobker requested regular progress reports on DRERIP, and asked about its relationship to the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCCP). Chairman Hunt said reports on DRERIP and BDCCP will be put on the next BDPAC meeting's agenda.

Chairman Hunt and Vice Chairman Bungarz left the meeting to accommodate travel needs. Mr. Peltier resumed the meeting as acting chair.

Jerry Johns, DWR's Deputy Director of Water Resources Planning and Management, presented the Delta Vision Process Proposal, which laid out the purpose, outcomes, deliverables, and a schedule for implementing planning efforts. The proposal is currently in the approval process. There was discussion about the proposed Blue Ribbon Commission, a seven or eight appointed member body that would provide policy and resources expertise. Mr. Bobker said that integrity and independent science need to remain a foundation for the organization. It was suggested that the word "process" be stricken from the Delta Vision program title. More details about the proposed Delta Vision will be presented at the "Developing a Delta Vision: How to Connect the Dots" conference on June 6-7, 2006 in Stockton.

Andy Moran, Delta Wetlands Project, provided public comment regarding the In-Delta Storage Project Draft Report released January 2004. The document is posted to the CALFED website at www.calwater.ca.gov/Programs/Storage/InDeltaStorageReports_2003/InDeltaFeasibilityStudies_Jan2004.shtml. He said that the report properly identified technical points of view. There is a huge amount of data available that Delta Wetlands is willing to share in order to help in the effort.

8. Subcommittee Structure (Action Item)

Director Grindstaff introduced the proposed subcommittee structure, but discussion related to the item was held over to the next BDPAC meeting in July due to time constraints. The item will be moved to top of the next meeting's agenda. BDPAC did not take action on this item. Mr. Peltier said that BDPAC members should be prepared to identify which Subcommittee they are interested in participating in. Chairman Hunt has not finalized decisions regarding Subcommittee chairs.

The next BDPAC meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2006.

Mr. Peltier adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.