

Agenda Item: 5
Meeting Date: September 13, 2006

BAY-DELTA PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CALFED SCIENCE PROGRAM UPDATE

Summary: An update on recent and upcoming CALFED Science Program activities.

Recommended Action: This is an information item only.

CALFED Science Program Priorities for Year 7 identified in Program Plan

The Science Program will continue to support and participate in an intensive effort to improve understanding of the Bay-Delta system, as well as improve the application of science throughout the CALFED Program. Year 7 Science Program efforts will address Science Program goals, Record of Decision (ROD) objectives and priorities identified in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program 10-Year Action Plan. The following highlighted activities are part of a long-term strategy to meet the Program's objectives while maintaining the ability to respond to unforeseen critical issues facing the CALFED Program. To access the Program Plan, please visit:

http://www.calwater.ca.gov/Program_Plans_2006_Year7/Draft_Science_Program_Plan.pdf .

- Developing a State of Science for the Bay-Delta System report that will provide a broad interdisciplinary context and describe relevant scientific information for the Bay-Delta system to inform decision making and future Delta management under changing conditions.
- Providing staff and resource support for the reconstituted CALFED-wide Independent Science Board (ISB).
- Providing support for End of Stage I decisions through programmatic reviews such as Environmental Water Account (EWA) Review, Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS) Reviews, and supporting assessments of water quality and ecosystem restoration programs.
- Continuing performance measures and indicators development in collaboration with implementing agency representatives.
- 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 the Program's Proposal Solicitation Package and providing support to increase data analyses of existing monitoring data sets through CALFED Science Fellows Program.
- Supporting ongoing scientific research, projects, and programs across the CALFED Program by identifying and providing technical expert advisors.

2006 Environmental Water Account (EWA) Review

The Science Program, in collaboration with CALFED implementing agency scientists, is organizing a comprehensive review of the EWA Program. This event will be held in Sacramento November 28-30, 2006 and will focus on the contribution of EWA and other environmental water programs to protecting and restoring delta smelt, Chinook salmon and steelhead in the San Francisco estuary and watershed, developing plans for science needs and water allocation priorities for EWA Year 7, and identifying science components and water allocation strategies for a possible long-term EWA Program. For more information on EWA and the upcoming review, see the EWA Workshops webpage: <http://science.calwater.ca.gov/workshop/ewa.shtml>.

4th Biennial CALFED Science Conference

The 4th Biennial CALFED Science Conference will be held October 23-25, 2006 at the Sacramento Convention Center. The conference is centered around the theme "Making Sense of Complexity: Science in a Changing Environment" and will include presentations addressing high priority issues such as pelagic organism decline, levees, mercury, invasive species, climate change, and wetland restoration. In addition to three days of oral presentations, the conference will also feature over 150 poster presentations. Please visit the CALFED Science Conference website for online registration and program and abstract information: http://science.calwater.ca.gov/conferences/sciconf_index.shtml

2006 Focused Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP)

The Science Program recently issued its second open call for proposals to address key critical uncertainties that hamper resource management in the Bay-Delta system. The 2006 Focused PSP received 35 proposals that address the four priority topic areas:

- Environmental water
- Aquatic invasive (exotic) species
- Trends and patterns of population and system response to a changing environment
- Habitat availability and response to change

The Science Program staff is now working through the peer review phase of the PSP process as outlined at the March 15, 2006 BDPAC meeting. Funding recommendations are expected by December 2006. For more information on the PSP process, priority topics, and proposal information, please visit:

http://science.calwater.ca.gov/psp/psp_package_2006.shtml

2006 CALFED Science Fellows solicitation

The CALFED Science Program has initiated a third call for proposals for the CALFED Science Fellows Program, an innovative program that brings together junior scientists with CALFED Program agency scientists and senior research mentors in collaborative data analysis and research projects relevant to ecosystem management and water supply reliability questions, including analyses of the immense monitoring data collected and maintained by the implementing agencies. The 2006 solicitation resulted in 20 proposals from doctoral graduate students and post-doctoral researchers aiming to address priority topic areas identified in the 2006 Focused PSP, as well as specific needs identified by CALFED implementing agencies for the following topics:

- Environmental Water Account
- Drinking water quality
- Pelagic organism decline

For more information on the 2006 solicitation, past and current Fellows and projects, please visit: <http://www.csgc.ucsd.edu/EDUCATION/CALFED/CALFEDIndx.html>.

Independent Science Board (ISB)

The reconstituted CALFED Independent Science Board (ISB) held its first meeting on August 14-15, 2006. Chaired by Dr. Jeff Mount, the ISB consists of 12 distinguished scientists and engineers with a range of multi-disciplinary expertise. The ISB advises the Authority and BDPAC on the application of science and the effectiveness of science practices across the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. Topics of the first meeting included discussion of technical review of ongoing CALFED programs and activities such as the Delta Risk Management Strategy, input regarding the Science Program State of Science for the Bay-Delta System report, and an update on development of performance measures. Meeting materials, including ISB recommendations, can be found at http://science.calwater.ca.gov/sci_tools/isb.shtml. The next meeting will be in mid-November 2006.

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