

California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee (BDPAC)
Water Supply Subcommittee (WSS)
Wednesday, July 9, 2008
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon
Bonderson Hearing Room
901 P Street
Sacramento, California

Meeting Summary

Introductions

The following California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee (BDPAC) members attended the meeting: Ronald Jacobsma, Jerry Meral, and Marguerite Naillon (for Greg Gartrell).

The meeting focused on the following agenda items:

1. Conveyance Plan Project Budgets (Kathy Kelly)
2. Implementing the Governor's 20 percent Efficiency Improvement Goal by 2020 (Rick Soehren)
3. Dealing with the Drought (Wendy Martin)
4. Delta Vision Strategic Plan (Terry Macaulay)
5. State Water Board's June 2008 *Draft Strategic Workplan for the San Francisco Bay / Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary* (Diane Riddle)
6. Public Comments

Jerry Meral and Ron Jacobsma Water Supply Subcommittee (WSS) co-chairs, opened the meeting by welcoming those attending and reviewing the meeting agenda.

The summary below provides an overview of the presentations at the meeting as well as comments and questions received from the subcommittee and meeting participants.

1. Governor Schwarzenegger's Delta Conservation Plan Project Update - Kathy Kelly, DWR

Kathy updated the subcommittee on the general schedule status of the California Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) as well as the project's budget and contract negotiations. The project is funded by monies from the State Water Project (SWP). Currently, two programs are in place: (1) the Delta Habitat and Conservation Program, which encompasses the Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) process for the BDCP, and (2) the contract program or path for the BDCP project. HDR has been contracted for up to \$25 million over about seven years to perform environmental consulting services including the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which is scheduled for completion by 2010. A second contract with the Washington Group, a division of URS Corporation, is ongoing for up to \$60 million over about seven years for engineering consulting services.

Delores Brown is the BDCP program manager for California Department of Water Resources (DWR). She will be responsible for determining the organizational structure of all entities involved and will manage key project components.

The CALFED Conveyance Program projects also are moving forward. The program is in the process of obtaining needed permits and has secured \$3 million in SWP funding. One of the projects, Franks Track, is moving along quickly to help improve water quality in the Delta.

Questions/Comment

- *Have the lead agencies been identified?* Yes, there are five lead agencies: DWR, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries (NMFS), and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG).
- *To what extent is the BDCP effort dependent on State funding?* State agency staff's are funded by the State budget.

Action Item

- *Please update WSS on the approved budget when one has been established.* The budget will be posted on the BDPAC web site.

2. Implementing the Governor's 20 percent Efficiency Improvement Goal by 2020 - Rick Soehren, DWR

In February 2008, the governor outlined a plan for aggressive water conservation, setting a goal of 20 percent reduction of urban per capita water use by 2020. Studies suggest that the 2020 goal is achievable. Outreach efforts will involve advisory committee meetings, public meetings, and workshops to facilitate working with or giving input on the Delta Improvement efforts/Delta Vision process.

Proposition 84 funding will finance implementation projects that reduce per capita use, such as best management practices (BMPs) for urban conservation programs. A contract has been executed with the California Urban Water Conservation Council to provide technical support for the development of the state's plan. Work is expected to be completed as early as November 2008. The results of this project will be incorporated into the 2009 State Water Plan.

Questions/Comments

- *Are you going to take a look at what urban water prices are projected to be statewide?*
The team is not specifically looking at costs although it seems reasonable to assume water prices will be higher in the future and price structures may help conservation efforts.
- *Climate change may disrupt rainfall patterns and temperatures; will this be considered in the 2020 plan projections?* No, the changes cannot be quantified in that time frame.
- *How will the agriculture industry fit into the 2020 plan?* The governor's charge did not specifically include agriculture. DWR has other programs aimed at agriculture, and agricultural water use is addressed in AB 2175 which is currently being considered by the Legislature.
- *How can 20 percent be obtained across the board when some communities will reach 30 percent and others will only reach 10 percent?* Some communities may not be able to meet the 2020 goal. The most important tool for future savings is to tap into the potential of BMPs and implement them aggressively.

- *The State Board is looking at conservation and water rights. Is there an expectation that conservation frees up water supplies to support growth while not necessarily adding more water supplies?* In some cases, supplies may go to environmental resources.
- *What is the public outreach strategy for this program?* Public meetings and presentations will piggy-back on the already scheduled water plan meetings with some additional specialized work shops.
- *How are greenhouse gas emissions considered?* There is a climate change benefit to conservation. Depending on the location of the water users, emissions due to pumping the water are also a factor. The Department is working with Air Resources Board to quantify green house gas emission benefits of conservation. In addition, efforts will be made at the public utility commission level to educate end users about the energy costs of providing water.
- *While you may be able to save on energy costs, removal of vegetation will have impacts as well.* We hope removing vegetation will not be necessary and instead, BMPs would be implemented.

Action Item

- *Please provide the WSS with an update on the 2020 plan at our next meeting.* Rick agreed to provide an update at the next meeting.

3. Dealing with the Drought - Wendy Martin, DWR

In June 2008 the governor declared a state of emergency in nine counties because of the current drought conditions. Of major concern is a dry 2009: a year during which the state could experience one of the driest periods ever, exacerbating low reservoir conditions and depleted ground water supplies. The long-term picture supports the need for a drought management program and the 2020 conservation program. The overarching goals of both programs are to reduce demand and increase supply to narrow the foreseeable gap.

DWR responded to the governor's drought declaration with a three tiered response. 1) Immediate response, 2) Plan for a dry 2009 and, 3) Long-term solutions. The resulting strategies include convening a Drought Task Force, compiling information to understand impacts and consequences of droughts, asking agencies to share knowledge about the water conditions throughout the state, and developing an urban drought guidance document. In addition, DWR is accelerating efforts for water conservation with community outreach programs and grants, and plans for a drought web site or physical location where people can receive information from multiple agencies. As the administration is working under the assumption that the State will not have enough water for all needs, it is quickly activating a dry year purchase program (i.e., drought water bank) to help the State acquire water supplies. Although in the past a purchase program has been successful, DWR is concerned about increased competition for water supplies which will drive water prices up. Major infrastructure changes will help with reliability and supply various needs. The Governor also wants additional surface and ground water storage considered.

Rick Soehren added that the Urban Drought Relief Program is a newly established, fast track grant program created to make funds for drought management immediately available to local agencies. The program was announced on July 1, applications are due July 21, and DWR will announce grant awards by July 31 so agencies know how much money will be available to them. (Note: this

schedule has been revised.) Funding up to \$10 million will be available to eligible entities for urban drought conservation with an additional \$2 million reserved for disadvantaged communities. Grant applications are ranked solely on the basis of percent cost share.

Questions/Comments

- *Several South San Joaquin Valley agencies are finding it difficult to understand what they need to do to create a program for their district to apply for these types of grants. Grant application assistance is available free of charge. Cities, counties, non- profits, joined communities, and unincorporated communities can apply.*
- *It seems the 1977 drought had comparable levels to today's drought; however, there is not much media attention. What is DWR doing to raise awareness? The Governor is calling for an aggressive outreach campaign including partnering with water interest groups.*
- *Demand has hardened. More permanent crops and urban population growth has increased water needs. Has DWR done an analysis of how current agriculture and urban population demand be impacted by a 2009 drought scenario? Not yet, DWR is only starting to consider this.*
- *Simply achieving smarter, more efficient use of water from consumers, like watering lawns at certain times a day and not allowing water to flow to sidewalks, would be beneficial. Landscaping and similar opportunities like a "tune-up" of irrigation systems every spring can be implemented as BMPs.*
- *The Delta may not be operable as a conveyance system next year due to drought conditions. The concerns are for endangered species that may not survive because water cannot be moved throughout the Delta.*
- *How can we as agencies define or regulate an appropriate landscape? It will always be a personal choice for homeowners. DWR must convey the message that water is a precious resource not to be abused. Every drop needs to be used efficiently or conserved. Incentives and/or a crisis may lead to smarter choices.*

4. Delta Vision Strategic Plan - Terry Macaulay, CALFED

The Delta Vision Strategic Plan (strategic plan) details 60 actions derived from 18 strategic goals that focus on water conservation, and building a sustainable and functional plan for the Delta. Some of the strategies include optimizing water conservation, reuse, and efficiency; providing ecological flows throughout the Delta; controlling invasive species; and controlling pollutants. Comments on the strategic plan can be submitted today, at the July Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) meeting, or in written form, due by August 4 as shown in the schedule below:

- June 20: Draft 1
- June 26-27: BRTF rollout
- July 1: Written comments due on Draft 1
- July 11: Draft 2 (minor revisions)
- July 17-18: BRTF, public comments
- **August 4: Written comments due on Draft 2**
- August 15: Draft 3 (major revisions)
- August 21-22: BRTF

- September: Final draft
- October: Plan finalized
- October 31: Plan submitted to Delta Vision Committee and Governor
- December 31: BRTF ends

Questions/Comments

- *It seems some of the proposed strategies are in conflict with one another. How will this be reconciled?* Further detailed planning is necessary as the strategic plan and the governance structure implementing the plan are enacted.
- *Are there inconsistencies between infrastructure needs, water bond needs, and a legislative plan for the Delta?* The Delta Vision process should develop proposed language for legislature bonds that addresses new infrastructure.
- *What is the proposed governance structure?* It is a structure that includes existing agencies, with the goal of overseeing the results of the new strategic plan, which would be legally binding via legislation. It is not an entirely new legislative authority, but instead, mostly an authority that builds upon existing agency responsibilities and modifies them slightly to form one authority. Each agency would retain authority. Comments on the structure are welcome.
- *The concept of creating a Delta Conservancy seems to make more sense when we consider combining it with the existing Coastal Conservancy, who already operates in the Delta. Has this relationship been considered?* This may have been considered, but there is a focus to go beyond replicating a current authority model and instead, look toward organizations like the BDCP.

Jerry Meral also noted that the WSS is not planning to provide formal comments on the strategic plan.

5. State Water Board's June 2008 Draft Strategic Workplan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary - Diane Riddle, SWRCB

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and the Central Valley and San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Water Boards) developed a draft strategic plan to address water quality and water right issues in the Bay-Delta. The draft plan identifies priority activities the Water Boards will pursue over the next five years in the Bay-Delta, and provides specificity regarding timelines and resource needs. The workplan continues to meet previous Water Board commitments and priorities identified by the Governor and Delta Vision, and builds upon existing processes such as BDCP. Major elements include: water use efficiency activities; a comprehensive contaminants monitoring plan, comprehensive review of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan (includes primarily flow dependant water quality objectives for the Bay-Delta and Suisun Marsh to protect beneficial uses of water) and water rights implementing that plan; water right compliance and enforcement activities; various activities related to protection of Delta water quality; and measures to ensure that the SWP's and Central Valley Project's methods of diversion in the southern Delta are reasonable, beneficial, and protect the public trust.

The following are important dates for the draft workplan:

- June 13: Released for public review
- July 1: Presented to State Water Board

- July 9 (12:00 p.m.): Deadline to submit written comments
- July 16: Considered by State Water Board (the State Water Board did adopt the workplan on the 16th with changes. The final workplan is available on the State Board website)
- Late 2008: Considered by the regional water quality control boards

Questions/Comments

- *You noted focus on a Delta tributary; do you have one in mind?* DWR and CDFG are planning to focus initially on two rivers tributary to the Delta; for example, the American River or the Merced River. The State Water Board is already planning to establish revised flow objectives for the San Joaquin River as part of the workplan.
- *How will inputs from outside the Delta that affect water quality be handled?* In addition to the activities identified in the workplan, the Water Boards are also pursuing core regulatory activities and activities upstream to address water quality impairments. The Water Boards will continue to do so and evaluate the need to coordinate upstream activities with those in the Delta and those identified in the workplan.

6. Public Comments

No public comments were received.

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.