

**Draft Meeting Summary**  
**California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee**  
**Working Landscapes Subcommittee**  
**September 2, 2004; 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Working Landscapes Subcommittee web site:

<http://calwater.ca.gov/BDPAC/Subcommittees/WorkingLandscapesSubcommittee.shtml>

Subcommittee Co-Chair, **Denny Bungarz**, welcomed Subcommittee members and initiated self-introductions.

**1. Review of July 1, 2004 Meeting Summary**

The July 1, 2004 Subcommittee meeting summary was approved by consensus without amendment.

**2. Chair Report**

None.

**3. Agency Reports**

**California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).** **Ken Trott** reported on behalf of CDFA. He reported that the August 17<sup>th</sup> “Agricultural Innovations and Environmental Stewardship Tour” hosted by CDFA Secretary Kawamura was a success. Trott said that the tour included leadership from a number of state and federal resource and environmental agencies and visited four agricultural operations in the San Joaquin Valley to learn about private landowner initiatives to conserve resources, produce food and protect the environment. He noted that the tour is the second in an ongoing series of tours hosted by Kawamura; the first tour in the Sacramento Valley was in June 2004. The third tour has yet to be scheduled.

**Trott** reported that CDFA submitted suggestions to CBDA leadership for individuals to fill several vacancies on the Bay-Delta Advisory Committee (BDPAC), including ideas for the Working Landscapes Subcommittee co-chair. He noted that the Subcommittee’s co-chair would not be filled until the BDPAC vacancies had been filled first. He said that BDPAC nominees must be approved by the federal CALFED leads, as well as by the Governor.

**John Steggall**, CDFA scientist, reported on the status of the State Water Resources Control Board’s Agricultural Water Quality grant program. Steggall is CDFA’s representative to the State Board’s Agricultural Water Quality grant program. Steggall offered to answer questions on the grant program or direct interested individuals to the appropriate State Board staff. Steggall’s e-mail address is [jsteggall@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:jsteggall@cdfa.ca.gov).

**Burt Bundy** wondered if there was any coordination between the CALFED Water Use Efficiency Program and the Agricultural Water Quality Grant. **Steggall** replied that there hasn’t been much discussion about the nexus between the two programs to-date.

**Al Medvitz** said that the USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Agricultural Water Quality grant could, in tandem, provide a meaningful program to landowners in the Delta, and suggested that a group like the new Delta Resource Conservation and Development Council could coordinate the funding for landowners.

**Tina Cannon** cautioned that there could be legal barriers to granting Proposition 40 and 50 bond proceeds, the two primary sources of funding for the Agricultural Water Quality grants, directly to landowners. She believes that these grants would have to go through public or qualified non-governmental organizations, though in light of the language in Prop. 50 which designates at least \$20 million to assist farmers with integrating agricultural activities with ecosystem restoration, there seemed to be a positive argument that some money was allocated to private parties. The Department of Fish and Game is seeking a determination on that.

**Olen Zirkle** agreed and said that there are a number of local agencies and qualified organizations knowledgeable about agriculture that could marry the water quality grant funds and USDA funds. He specifically mentioned resource conservation districts.

**Brian Leahy** added that USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service has, in recent years, grown more aware of the value of matching federal, state, local and private conservation dollars to meet multiple landowner needs.

**CALFED -- Jay Chamberlin** announced the September 9<sup>th</sup> BDPAC meeting, noting that the primary agenda item is the 10-Year Finance Plan for CALFED. (Staff note: The second day of the Bay Delta Authority's October 13-14 meeting will be entirely dedicated to the Finance Plan and public testimony, and a special meeting of the Authority to take action on the Finance Plan has been scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup>.)

**Chamberlin** reported that the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) just released the Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for the ERP monitoring grants, which will be focused on monitoring of prior funded ERP restoration projects. He announced that there will be workshops on the PSP in Sacramento (September 23, 2004), Merced (TBA) and Butte (TBA) Counties.

**Chamberlin** reminded Subcommittee members that the CALFED Science PSP was released on July 15, 2004 and offers \$18 to 20 million for three areas of research in support of CALFED objectives.

**Chamberlin** added that the ERP would be issuing a larger package of PSPs this coming winter, including the \$20 million "Working Landscapes" PSP. He concluded that information of the Monitoring and Science PSPs is available on the CALFED website.

**California Department of Fish and Game – Dave Zezulak** reported that the Milestones Report being prepared for the re-initiation of CALFED programmatic consultation pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act has been completed. He said that the Milestones Report is available for public review and comment. He emphasized that though they have already received good input, they continue to seek input on any

missing information on projects consistent with the CALFED MSCS that should be included in the Report.

#### **4. Payment-In-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) Work Group Report.**

**Trott and Bungarz** gave a presentation on the PILT Work Groups' progress report and interim recommendations. (The draft progress report was handed-out at the meeting).

**Carol Wright** asked if the PILT research recommended by the Work Group is something that should be considered by the Independent Science Board as a CALFED research priority. Work Group member, **Tina Cannon** noted that the ISB does have socio-economic expertise that could be brought to bear on the issues raised by the Work Group.

**Bob Clark** asked if the Work Group had considered land acquisition impacts on special district assessments, such as those made by reclamation districts. If not, he suggested that the Work Group take on this issue. ***Cannon** replied that the state pays valid assessments, and, that while the assessment issue could be considered by the work group in a general way, making determinations on the validity of individual assessments is a complex issue and not the purview of the work group.*

**Bungarz** noted that the Subcommittee has not seen the PILT Progress Report until recently and should be given more time to peruse the document before approving its recommendations. He suggested giving the Subcommittee until September 17<sup>th</sup> to read and provide comments on the Report, after which the Work Group should meet to consider comments and, as necessary, revise the report for the Subcommittee's October meeting. **Jeff Sutton**, member of the Work Group, said that he felt that the Work Group could spend more time on its PILT recommendations. **Vickie Newlin** said that Patrick Wright is interested in seeing some results from the PILT Work Group's efforts in time for them to be considered by BDPAC at its February 2005 meeting. **Cannon** suggested that staff work up a timeline for the Subcommittee that would result in the recommendations being calendared on the BDPAC's February agenda. **Zezulak** suggested moving forward with the two recommendations not requiring legislation. **Cannon** replied that the other recommendations are not necessarily non-controversial either, for example the recommendations to Congress and the federal agencies may require more research. ***Cannon** also advised the group that they may wish to ask the Solicitor's office whether Working Landscapes Subcommittee via BDPAC can advise Federal agencies on the BDA to seek Federal legislation. She was unsure of FACA rules on the subject.*

It was agreed by consensus that any Subcommittee member comments on the PILT report should be forwarded to Trott by September 17<sup>th</sup> and that the Work Group would come back to the October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting with any necessary revisions to its recommendations.

**Bob Clark** requested that he be made a member of the PILT Work Group. **Bungarz** directed Trott to include Clark as a PILT Work Group member and on the Work Group's e-mail list.

## 5. Agricultural Land Protection Work Group Report

**Trott**, who is staffing this work group with **Jeannie Blakeslee**, reported that the Work Group met in late July at Al Medvitz' ranch to define the Work Group's purpose and work. Initial Work Group members included Tom Zuckerman, Becky Sheehan, Al Medvitz, Vickie Newlin, Margit Aramburu, Jeannie Blakeslee and Ken Trott. **Olen Zirkle** asked to be added to the Work Group membership. Trott also announced that Becky Sheehan was no longer with the California Farm Bureau Federation and would be replaced on the Subcommittee and Work Group by John Weech, a new employee of the Farm Bureau.

**Trott** reported that the Work Group's purpose is to develop agricultural land protection tools for CALFED program managers for use where agricultural land protection will further CALFED goals, protect prior CALFED investments or mitigate CALFED program impacts on agricultural resources. He noted that the Work Group envisions producing a manual and workshops on agricultural land protection based on the agricultural resource mitigation tools agreed to in the CALFED EIR/S and ROD. Trott pointed to the League of California Cities' handbook on agricultural land protection strategies ([http://www.cacities.org/resource\\_files/22457.Farmland%20Action%20Guide.pdf](http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/22457.Farmland%20Action%20Guide.pdf)) as an example of the kind of manual that could be produced for CALFED. He said that other tools may be included as optional mitigation strategies, as appropriate; for example, some mitigation measures considered, but not included in the ROD, were deemed appropriate at the CALFED project level, but not at the CALFED Program EIR/S level. Trott said that the first work item agreed to by the Work Group is to review the annotated list of CALFED ROD mitigation measures prepared last year by Jeannie Blakeslee, and provide her with feedback on her analysis, as well as examples, if any, of where the measures listed have been used in the past. The Work Group has not set a follow-up meeting, but will do so once members have had a chance to review and comment on Blakeslee's list.

## 6. Subcommittee Action Plan Update

**Jay Chamberlin** pointed out that at the last Subcommittee meeting it was suggested that the Subcommittee revisit its Action Plan, which is now more than a year old. He opened the topic for discussion.

**Carol Wright** said that there needs to be better collaboration and communication with the Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee, which Working Landscapes Subcommittee was formed, at least in part, to advise. She said that because of this relationship, the Working Landscapes Subcommittee should be part of the Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee's planning and budget considerations. She further suggested that there be joint Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee and Working Landscape Subcommittee meetings.

**Chamberlin** responded that this kind of coordination was partly why he was hired by the Ecosystem Restoration Program. He asked if there were volunteers to serve on an Action Plan Update Subcommittee. Jim Patterson, Olen Zirkle, Dave Zezulak, Burt Bundy, Al Medvitz, Ken Trott, and Jeannie Blakeslee volunteered to serve on the new work group.

**Medvitz** suggested that one of the items that he would like to see explored for the updated Action Plan is the notion of creating markets for the environmental benefits that ranches and farms can and do provide.

**Elizabeth Patterson** suggested that the Work Group consider the Bulletin 160 (Water Plan) Agricultural Stewardship Strategy recommendations as they consider the updated Subcommittee Action Plan. She also suggested tapping the Bulletin 160 agricultural caucus group as a source for potential new participants on the Working Landscape Subcommittee.

**Chamberlin** said that the Subcommittee's staff has been discussing ways to reinvigorate the Subcommittee besides an update and refocusing of its Action Plan. He said that staff hopes to expand Subcommittee membership and participation, including outreach to new groups who would have interest and experience in addressing habitat and resource concerns in a working lands context. **Trott** added that one of the other ideas that staff has been considering is the structure of the Subcommittee, including appointed representative membership to increase the participation of non-agency stakeholders. He noted that the Environmental Justice Subcommittee recently went through a similar restructuring.

**Newlin** suggested looking at an alternative meeting day besides the first Thursday. She said that it seems that many of the water agencies also use this date to hold their meetings, which precludes them from more active participation with the Subcommittee. **Trott** said that he would work with **Heidi Rooks** of CALFED to identify some possible alternative dates for consideration at the October meeting.

**Chamberlin** said that he would try to convene the Work Group via e-mail.

## **7. Public Comment**

**Brian Leahy** announced that Ben Wallace of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts is organizing a grazing lands management workshop on the Central Coast. He said that he would send CDFA a copy of the workshop announcement for distribution to the Working Landscape Subcommittee membership.

## **8. Next meeting**

Thursday, October 7, 2004.