

NOTES FROM ORANGE BREAKOUT GROUP

12/4/95 CALFED WORKSHOP

By Tom Cannon, Jones & Stokes Associates

ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT

Objectives:

- Reasonableness
- Themes
- Common Actions
- Implicit Performance Measures

Summary of Key Points:

1. Objectives should be expanded to include key stakeholder needs (i.e. commercial and recreational fishermen; urban water users, etc.) and economic and community needs.
2. Action 'packages' should be developed for key stakeholders.
3. Minimum alternatives should address each of the objectives and solution principles.
4. Minimum alternatives should have a large base of core actions.
5. Many actions could be classified as common to all and left out of the alternative formulation process as variables. Degree of implementation of these actions could be variable and worked out later or be developed systematically under adaptive management.
6. Alternatives and actions cannot be evaluated without more detail.
7. Suggest alternatives develop from specific themes (e.g. urban water users theme). Emphasize actions that benefit theme topic, but provide as much protection for other users as possible to ensure meeting solution principles.
8. Pain should be distributed equitably just as benefits.
9. Most actions will cause some negative effects, and thus should have build in mitigation for these impacts.
10. Objectives should include the Bay values separate from Delta: same goes for solution principles and performance measures.

Comments:

1. Concern expressed for conflicts among beneficial uses of water. Not likely to find solutions that are positive to all uses.

2. Nat Bingham was concerned that protecting and enhancing commercial and recreational fisheries are not program objectives. Could not find the benefit to fisheries. Suggested benefits to fisheries be a performance measure. He has no problem with harvest management as an action category, except the action could be better worded. Suggested that sustainable fish harvest be a subobjective of Ecosystem Quality.
3. B.J. Miller was concerned that water users needs were not addressed in objectives: "Meet reasonable current and future needs of water users." There should be an objective that does not allow further degradation of bromides and THM's in water diverted for urban use.
4. L. Snow responded that packages of actions should be developed to satisfy fishermen and water users.
5. Objective statements and solution principles should include economic and community (people) needs. Additional actions should also be considered for these.
6. More discussion is needed to define reasonable use.
7. We should draw from actions to cover all needs.
8. J. Buell suggested alternatives should be developed for mutuality of interests rather than conflict resolution.
9. B.J. Miller suggested more common actions including demand management and habitat protection and restoration. Degree of implementation of these actions could be variable and worked out later or be developed systematically under adaptive management. Common actions need only benefit some uses, and can be detrimental to others if primary benefit is important.
10. Riparian action categories should include actions related to riparian forests. Large woody debris are important fish habitat features.
11. Restoration of levees and more wetlands and aquatic habitat could be costly to water supply because of increases in the tidal prism.
12. The more multiple benefits of an action, the more it should be considered common.
13. D. Fullerton suggested that many actions could be implemented under an Adaptive Management Approach, wherein actions are first initiated partially or on a small scale (pilot basis) to test feasibility and develop most effective approach.
14. We should set goals for the actions: targets.
15. Riprapping of shallow Delta habitat to protect shallow habitat could be bad for riparian vegetation.
16. Riparian vegetation could conflict with flood control objectives.
17. Wetlands enhancement could be a water quality conflict, depending on how wetlands are implemented.
18. Terrestrial habitat enhancement could be a problem for farmers (benefit pests).

19. Floodways and meander belts should not be a core action. (Vulnerability of levees could be a concern.)
20. Control of introduced species should not affect other uses. (2-4D use on water hyacinth was used as example.)
21. Suggested action: hold more floodwaters in upper watersheds (dams and forest management).
22. The necessary details for actions are needed to evaluate alternatives and actions.
23. Suggested urban water user theme for alternative:
 - minimize fish constraints on water exports
 - improve drinking water quality (less chemicals, bromines, and organics)
 - improve reliability of existing system (levee vulnerability problem).
24. Conflict: exporter needs and fish needs.
25. Not getting anywhere with this approach (nothing is sticking to the wall).
26. Need more detail on actions.
27. Fisheries should be faced with less regulatory uncertainty. (Could have action to reduce regulatory uncertainty to fisheries.)
28. Pain should be distributed equitably just as benefits.
29. Ag and urban water should have different water quality objectives and should thus have different sources/delivery systems. Actions should reflect this need.
30. Major water intakes for diversions should as a minimum be locations where flow will pass screens and not be at end of dead-end sloughs (existing south Delta situation). (Suggested as a solution principle that would require resolving in all minimum alternatives.)
31. Fisheries management action should be stated as follows: Shape fisheries to minimize effects on endangered species (time and place closures).
32. Primary ag drainage should meet a minimum water quality goal.
33. There should be no minimum solution (set of actions) for Delta drainage water quality problems. These problems are too expensive for minimum alternatives.
34. We should have 'deeper' solution principles to guide minimum alternatives.
35. Revisit question of reasonable beneficial use.
36. Principle should be to not reduce flood control capacity of system. No increase in flood impacts should be allowed.
37. New levee construction practices should be in core action.
38. Protect levee integrity should be a core action.

39. Greater attention should be placed on principle that there should be no redirected impacts. Most actions have some negative effects on some uses, thus should have some form of inherent mitigation for any suspected impact.
40. Example alternative:
 - did not address all solution principles
 - did not address objectives
 - not comprehensive
41. Need more progressive biological resources management.
42. How will Category III be implemented? Category III process will be guided by CALFED process.
43. Ground water banking is OK with adequate water quality.
44. Use linkages brought out in Workshop #3 when evaluating actions and developing performance measures.
45. To move process forward, staff should go ahead and develop alternatives for stakeholders to evaluate.
46. Next workshop should have a good set of alternatives with strengths and weaknesses well delineated.
47. Everybody should lose something since there is not enough water for everyone.
48. Cost needs to be delineated (\$'s, acres, acre-ft, etc.)
49. Can't deal with tradeoffs among alternatives with only general details of actions. (For example we need to know how much upstream storage is proposed when dealing with this action.)
50. What happens when we can't get approval for a key action?
51. Process is too unfocused. Too much information. Too general. Need details.
52. Working groups are too big to get any work done.
53. Alternative assembling should focus on needs of specific users, needs should be balanced, state clearly who and what interests are being emphasized.
54. We should have success factors by uses.

Topics/Notes (NOTEPADS):

1. Minimal Level to Provide Environmental Benefits
 - Winter run salmon and delta smelt are not in danger of extinction.
 - Water supply and fisheries do not face regulatory uncertainties caused by take limits.
 - Additional species are not listed as T or E.
 - The Solution Principle for Equity is satisfied (i.e. benefits and costs are fairly distributed across the range of alternatives).

- Water quality meets present and future requirements
 - drinking water quality standards are met.
 - Maintain system integrity - reduce threat to water availability.
2. QUESTION VALIDITY OF HOW PRIMARY CONFLICTS WERE ADDRESSED IN ALTERNATIVES.
 3. WHAT ARE ASSUMPTIONS GEOGRAPHIC/DOLLARS/OTHERWISE IN PUTTING ACTIONS IN OR OUT?
 4. SOME BOUNDARIES ARE INHERENT: ESA WAS CONSIDERED MINIMUM. SOME \$ ISSUES TOO.
 5. HOW DO WE PUT ACTIONS TOGETHER THAT DEAL WITH 14 OBJECTIVES. PROBLEM AT END - 404 PERMIT REQUIRES BEST ENV. ALT. WHICH DOES NOT MEET KEY INTERESTS. NEED AN OBJECTIVE CLEARLY.
 6. OBJECTIVES ALSO NEEDS TO RECOGNIZE RURAL COMMUNITIES.
 7. SUGGESTION TO DROP SYSTEM VULNERABILITY.
 8. WHERE DO OTHER NEEDS COME IN HERE?
 9. HOW MUCH YOU DO AND WHERE IS IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION.
 10. HOW MUCH WILL ACTION COST IS IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION.
 11. NEED A DESCRIPTION OF DEMAND MANAGEMENT.
 11. COMMON ACTIONS
 - a) EVERYTHING ON FIRST PAGE (HABITAT)
 - b) COULD BE VERY EXPENSIVE
 - c) WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL ABOUT HOW MUCH AND WHEN
 - d) APPLY SOLUTION CRITERIA TO ACTIONS IT WILL SORT OUT.
 - e) LEVEES: NEED TO PULL TOGETHER RECONSTRUCTION AND HABITAT VALUES.
 - f) ON ECOSYSTEM APPROACH WE SHOULD SEE HOW MANY ACTIONS WOULD BE X'S IN ALL CATEGORIES.
 - g) LEVEES - FOCUS ACTIONS WHERE LEVEES ARE POOR.
 12. BAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED SEPARATE FROM DELTA
 13. PROBLEMS FOR EXPORTERS:
 - a) COST OF TREATING WATER
 - b) WATER TAKEN FROM BELOW SEA LEVEL
 - c) CONSTRAINTS ON WATER MOVEMENT
 14. ASSEMBLING ALTERNATIVES:

- a) ASSEMBLE ALTS ON INTERESTS BASE THEN GEOGRAPHIC,
THE BALANCE
- b) REEXAMINE WHO ARE INTERESTS
- c) IDENTIFY WHICH GROUPS MUST HAVE SUCCESS
- d) LET INTEREST GROUPS DEFINE ALTERNATIVES
- e) CONSIDER POLITICAL NEEDS
- f) CONSIDER COSTS
- g) NEED TO HAVE DETAIL TO DETERMINE WHO ARE LOSERS OR
GAINERS.
- h) COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED
- i) NEED TO KNOW HOW, WHEN, AND WHERE