



Minutes of CALFED Water Quality Impact Assessment Team

April 30, 1997
1:00-3:00 PM
Room 1147 C-1

Participants: Rick Woodard, Carol Howe, Peter Mangarella, John Davis, Mary Dunne, Frank Piccola, Francis Chung, Ted Roefs

The meeting began with Rick giving a short review of the water quality segment of the CALFED "Approach to Impact Analysis" public workshop. He mentioned that there were about fifty attendees. Two questions were raised concerning water quality:

- Will the water quality team be analyzing the ecosystem and drinking water quality impacts of deposition of dredgings to the land side of levees? *Response: Yes.*
- Will the water quality team be evaluating the water quality impacts of groundwater drawdowns caused by water transfers in the North Valley? *Response: To answer this question it would be necessary to perform ground water modeling that is not planned for this stage of the CALFED process.*

Ted Roefs mentioned that the USFWS was attempting to set priorities for water quality parameters of concern. The information will probably not be available for impact analysis but should be helpful in setting priorities for future expenditure of CALFED funds. A discussion ensued on the need to first prioritize what is being protected (e.g., winter-run salmon, green sturgeon, etc.) where it is being protected (e.g., Delta, Upper Sacramento River, Feather River, etc.), and potentially what lifestage was most critical to protect, before it will be possible to prioritize parameters of concern.

John Davis described the approach being used to write water quality impact assessments. He distributed a sample write-up using an ecosystem action (i.e., restore tidal perennial aquatic habitat and tidal wetlands). **The team was asked to review the sample and provide comments to Rick by close of business, Friday, May 2.**

Carol asked whether the CALFED definition of the terms "existing conditions" and "affected environment" are identical. Frank said he would check on this issue and notify the team. *[Frank has since informed us that, with respect to the CALFED program, the two terms are synonymous].*

Responsibility for producing the No-Action alternative was discussed. Frank said he would clarify what documents should be used as representative of the No-Action. *[Frank has since informed us that the no-action has not changed. We are using the Water Quality Control Board projections. Stein is using the same info for his Model Run 472.]* Generation of water quality No-Action information will be the team's responsibility. For example, existing No-Action information specifies flow conditions in 2020. Population projections will be available from other CALFED teams. The water quality team will need to establish what these flows and population projections mean in terms of increased/decreased pollutant loads and concentrations. Francis said the team should review the Model Run 472 from the storage & conveyance report. This run should be representative of the 2020 base case flow conditions. Modeling runs are available on the Internet at wwwhydro.water.ca.gov/calfed.html or wwwdelmod.water.ca.gov.

For the Water Quality Affected Environment Report the team will be relying heavily on existing documents including the Delta Affected Environment Report, CVPIA Water Quality Technical Appendices, Water Quality Common Program Report, and the DWR South Delta Report. Francis is obtaining copies of the South Delta Report for Carol and Peter.

For May 30, 1997, Frank said the team is to have completed:

- the Water Quality Affected Environment Report
- an outline for the Water Quality Technical Report
- a substantial part of the water quality impact assessment

Rick and Carol are to produce a workplan to meet these deliverables.

Francis raised the idea of having meetings every other week vs. weekly. The groups agreed, with the stipulation that meetings would be arranged more frequently if required. **The next meeting of the team is Wednesday, May 14, at 1:30 PM.**

At the conclusion of the meeting Peter distributed the results of the parameter of concern loading analysis. He mentioned that much of the data that has been gathered will be useful in preparing the Affected Environment report. Ted stated that the bromide table should include seawater. **The team was asked to submit comments to Peter by close of business Friday, May 2.** Peter can be reached at (510) 893-3600, (510) 874-3268 FAX, or PAMANGA0@WCC.COM.