

DRAFT

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FROM THE CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM FISH ASSESSMENT PROCESS WORKING MEETING SEPTEMBER 13, 1996

MEETING PURPOSE AND GOALS

The purpose of the September 13, 1996 working meeting was to respond to agency and stakeholder interest in involvement in the development of the fisheries assessment process for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (CALFED) Programmatic Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). The goals of the September 13 meeting were to develop a final species list and discuss, modify, and, if possible, reach agreement on the proposed key assessment variable list.

STATUS OF WORK SINCE THE AUGUST MEETINGS

Between the August 22 and 27 and September 13 fish assessment methods working meetings, CALFED has summarized the outcome of the August 22 and 27 meetings; contacted IEP and requested and received verification of its formal participation as a priority activity; contacted and invited stakeholder fishery experts to join the fish assessment team; prepared a final draft fish species list and supporting matrix with criteria, including species groupings where appropriate; identified key assessment variables for each species; and reviewed and incorporated comments on key assessment variables. Additionally, CALFED formally completed the Phase I process as marked by the September 3, 1996, public meeting.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED SPECIES LIST

After reviewing technical documents and the comments received from the participants of the August 22 and August 27, 1996, working meetings, the species list was refined, divided into five fish communities based on ecosystem units, and scored in supporting matrices. While discussing the matrices, it was recommended that the names of two of the ecosystem units be changed to more standard names: "squawfish-sucker-hardhead" to "coldwater fishes", and "deep-bodied fishes" to "warmwater fishes". It was also suggested that tule perch, pacific herring, and starry flounder be added to the species list. There was some discussion about the value and purpose of including exotic

species. Because one purpose of the program is to identify beneficial uses and some exotic species provide a beneficial use, the exotic species remain on the list.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED ASSESSMENT VARIABLES

The mailout package distributed to the team identified 15 assessment variables. The list was reviewed and altered to reflect comments from meeting participants. Suggested changes to the assessment variable list were to include tidal flow (in cubic feet per second) in the flow category; change "reservoir drawdown" to "reservoir elevation change"; measure estuarine salinity in microsiemens; change "prey items" under food availability to "food items", with the subcategories "prey", "phytoplankton", and "detritus"; add acoustic/electric/air barriers to structural barriers; change "diversions" to "diversion impacts", with subcategories "predation", "entrainment", and "impingement"; add flow changes from diversions to "flow"; take "natural" effects out of diversions impacts; change "pollutants" to "water quality", with subcategories "salinity", "dissolved oxygen", "toxicants" (pesticides and metals), and "temperature"; discuss groundwater impacts on flows; change hatchery production to "artificial production"; move "disease" to "species interactions"; and include the subcategories "disease", "predation", "competition", "food availability", and "exotic plant invasion" in "species interactions".

ACTION ITEMS

Participants were given the following four tasks with specific deadlines to complete before the next meeting:

- Review and comment on the summary tables by September 23, 1996.
- Identify the species and species/variable relationships that may be important indicators of ecosystem response to potential CALFED actions by September 23, 1996.
- For each species/variable relationship, identify or review proposed tools by October 1, 1996.
- Provide any additional tool recommendations using the standard format, as seen in the Fish Assessment Process Working Document, by October 1, 1996.

Preliminary work groups for four species groups were formed at the August 22 and 27 meetings and updated at the September 13 meeting. It was estimated that individuals within the groups will require 1 to 5 days over the next three weeks to identify potential assessment methods.

CALFED staff and consultants will coordinate and incorporate comments for use in materials to be sent to all participating agency and stakeholder representatives for review prior to the next meeting. **The next working meeting will be held October 17, 1996, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

ATTENDEES AT SEPTEMBER 13, 1996 WORKING MEETING

Dale Sweetnam - DFG
Jim White - DFG
Randall Baxter - DFG
Pete Chadwick - DFG
David Kohlhorst - DFG
Jim Starr - DFG
Andrew Hamilton - USFWS
Bruce Herbold - EPA
Ted Sommer - DWR
Peter Baker - EA Engineering
Ken Lentz - USBR
Steve Cramer - Cramer & Associates
Carl Mesick - Stockton East

Serge Birk - CVPWA
Elise Holland - The Bay Institute
Frank Wernette - DFG
Sharon Kramer - MWDSC
Jim Sutton - SWRCB
Paul Bratovich - SWRI
Sharon Gross - CALFED
Wendy Halverson Martin - CALFED
Ray McDowell - CALFED
Jim Martin - CALFED
Warren Shaul - CALFED consultant
Phil Dunn - CALFED consultant
Dale Flowers - CALFED Consultant