Agency Revision Team Meeting
June 2-3, 1998

New Issues

Water Use Efficiency

- There is concern that there is no real environmental water use efficiency program.
- Should an environmental water use efficiency program be limited to addressing environmental diversions (refuges) or should it also address instream flows.

Storage

- There are questions about whether CALFED should base its assumptions upon Bulletin 160 numbers.
- CALFED should conduct a water needs analysis for all CALFED activities and programs.
- What role will CALFED serve in groundwater conjunctive use programs?

Conveyance

- There is concern that the EIS does not adequately assess how in-Delta water users can be served by alternative means, as a way of addressing water quality issues if an isolated conveyance facility is constructed.
- There is concern that CALFED, in considering the size of a potential isolated conveyance facility, has not considered the need to accommodate the water transfers.

Water Transfers

- Should CALFED facilitate Cross-Delta water transfers?*
- Should water transfers be limited by agency mandates/requirements/responsibilities, such as reservoir recreational and hydro power pool requirements?

ERP

- ERP may not address steelhead issues as adequately as salmon.

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- Should anadromous fish be returned to historical habitat (should barriers to upstream migration such as dams be removed?)?

- ERP is not the best forum to address hatchery issues.

- Focused research is critical to the success of the project, and should play more than a minor role.

- The ERP does not adequately describe environmental stressors.

- The ERP does not adequately address the overall ecological role of watersheds.

- The ERP should further promote the concept and importance of "key watersheds".

- Adaptive management has technical and practical limitation and cannot serve as the cornerstone of the program, rather it is one of many tools which can be used.

- The ERP does not adequately address the "ecosystem". It is too narrowly focused and should be expanded beyond the riparian corridor*.

- Several other issues to be submitted by DFG.

- Impacts to recreation, and new recreational opportunities created through the CALFED Program have not been adequately addressed.

Levees

- The levee program is basically continuing the traditional approach to the problems of vulnerability in the Delta, and its ability to provide for system integrity is limited.

- Should the current configuration of the Delta be maintained, and under what constraints (at any cost?)?*

- The improvements in the Delta, such as new habitat need to be protected regardless of cost.

Water Quality

- There is disagreement over whether CALFED should support completing the San Luis Drain and other out-of-valley discharge options.*

- The allowable concentrations for some constituents in the CALFED Draft Water Quality plan are higher than in EPA's California Toxics Rule and NMFS Biological Opinion. CALFED agencies need to resolve their differences and inform the Program to ensure consistency.

- Should CALFED's Water Quality Program strive for higher (more protective) standards than contained in other service's regulations and Biological Opinions?

- There is concern that CALFED's Water Quality Program is too narrowly focused upon drinking water quality with too little attention paid to environmental water quality.

- CALFED has not yet examined/described in the EIS how each conveyance configuration will affect the Water Quality common program. Has the water quality program evaluated a broad enough range of water quality actions in light of the different conveyance alternatives?

- TOC is not being adequately addressed.

Watershed Management

- There is disagreement over what constitutes an appropriate action in the upper watersheds in terms of nexus with the Bay-Delta.*

- Should CALFED make special efforts to preserve key watersheds? (CALFED has yet to identify the key watersheds that will most advance CALFED objectives and goals .)

Main Document

- There is concern that the Program does not plan to revise the Main document.

* These issues have also been elevated.

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