

To: CALFED Policy Group

Subject: Diversion Effects on Fishery Populations

**Summary of Agenda Item:**

Several critical issues have arisen regarding the diversion effects on fishery populations. An interagency/stakeholder team has been convened and are identifying and clarifying specific issues and questions. They have proposed a process to resolve these critical issues to the degree required to describe a preferred program alternative. The attached report identifies the primary issues, the proposed resolution process, the teams progress and schedule.

**Policy Issues:**

Many of the issues involve the teams analysis of how well an action or alternative will recover a fishery species. The problem is the definition of recovery. Three possibilities discussed by the team include:

1. Should the team's evaluation be performed in relationship to the CALFED agencies existing goals for recovery?
2. Should the team attempt to set "strawman" CALFED goals for recovery?
3. Use another method to address the recovery question?

The team is proposing to "delineate the operational biological criteria that provide the most benefit to fisheries considering other beneficial uses." The question is, does the membership of this interagency/ stakeholder team represent a broad enough spectrum to include other beneficial uses?

Is the proposed structure and process of the interagency/stakeholder team adequate to address the key issues on the diversion effects on fishery populations?