

Memorandum

Date: July 8, 1996
To: Agency Ecosystem Restoration Team
From: Dick Daniel
Subject: Meeting on Species of Special Concern

There will be an Agency Ecosystem Restoration meeting on Thursday, July 18, 1996, from 9 a.m. to noon in room 1142 of the Resources Building. The meeting will focus on issues relating to species of special concern, which spend at least part of their life cycle in the Delta. Those species are:

Birds

Tricolored blackbird
Swainson's hawk
California black rail
Aleutian Canadian goose
Greater Sandhill crane

Mammals

Salt-marsh harvest mouse
San Joaquin kit fox

Reptiles

Western pond turtle
Giant garter snake

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Insects

Antioch Dunes beetle
Sacramento anthicid beetle
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle

Fish

Delta smelt
Winter-run chinook salmon
Sacramento splittail

Special status plants will not be discussed at this meeting. The objective of this meeting is to receive your guidance on two general issues. First, will the CALFED Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan serve to implement the recovery plans for Delta dependent species; second, how can we best avoid impacts of the restoration plan itself and design effective mitigation for species of special concern?

To prepare for this meeting, you may want to confer with your colleagues who are specialists on the species listed above. If appropriate, please invite them to attend. Some of the questions we will want to discuss are: 1) Is it appropriate to develop a conservation plan for the Delta? 2) Is a mitigation bank a valuable tool? 3) Can we incorporate the "safe harbor concept" into restoration and land management plans? 4) Can we develop some long-term assurances that reduce the likelihood of conflicts between the Endangered Species Acts and land and water use in the Delta?

Also, attached for your review, are papers by Bruce Herbold and Jim Arthur. The ideas they present may represent important concepts for the CALFED Through Delta and Improved Through Delta alternatives. I would appreciate your comments. We may not get to these papers at our meeting on the 19th, so please put your comments in writing.

We have an ambitious agenda covering an important subject. We are looking forward to the discussion.

Attachments