

A Definition of Consensus & Proposed Ground Rules

Definition

For the purpose of this effort, consensus refers to the highest level of agreement that can be reached without dividing the parties into factions. The result is that everyone in the group supports, agrees to, or at least can live with a particular decision.

Meeting participants are asked to clearly identify areas of agreement and work hard to narrow areas of disagreement. In cases where there is a strong divergence of views, participants are encouraged to state clearly how a proposed recommendation might be amended to gain their support. If consensus cannot be reached, the differences in views will be noted in the meeting report for consideration by the Roundtable and CALFED Management Team.

Proposed Ground Rules for the Meeting:

- Recognize the time constraints of the meeting and phrase questions and comments as clearly and concisely as possible.
- Everyone participates and no person or interest group dominates discussion.
- Respect the views of other meeting participants.
- Participation is constructive; offer more than complaints.
- Participants are to comment or ask questions only when called upon by the meeting leader.