

**BAY- DELTA OVERSIGHT COUNCIL**1416 NINTH STREET, SUITE 1306-3  
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To: Interested Parties

Sj: Bay-Delta Oversight Council (BDOC) Update

The BDOC will hold its next meeting on July 23. It will consist of a field excursion to view some specifically targeted problems and opportunities in the Estuary first-hand. Official notice of the tour will be distributed when details are firmed up. As originally scheduled, in deference to various vacation conflicts, there will be no meeting in August. It is expected that regular monthly meetings will resume in September.

In recognition of the Governor's desire to work for closer federal participation in the Bay-Delta solution-finding process, the June council meeting was canceled in order to allow sufficient time to work with the federal government to mutually determine how to proceed with the Bay-Delta solution process.

Recently, on behalf of President Clinton, Kathleen McGinty, the Director of the White House Office on Environmental Policy, responded favorably to Governor Wilson's March 5 request to forge a collaborative approach to meeting separate but interdependent state and federal water resource responsibilities. The specifics on the particular form of federal participation remain to be worked out through direct discussions among policy leaders from each Administration.

In a May-27 letter to the Governor, Ms. McGinty stated that the Clinton Administration shares the Governor's desire to develop a strategy that will "protect the health of the Bay Delta environment and achieve reliable supplies for water users." Echoing Governor Wilson, Ms. McGinty wrote, "to ensure that our environmental and economic objectives are met . . . [we must] work in a more collaborative fashion."

By the time of the September meeting, it is hoped that the specific form of federal involvement will have been determined and that the Delta solution-finding process can proceed with full federal participation.

In the meantime, the staff will continue on a broad front of activity, previously directed by the council, which will advance the council's ability to fulfill your key responsibilities. These projects include:

### Producing comprehensive briefing materials:

A comprehensive draft report detailing drinking water quality and agricultural water quality issues has been completed.

A comprehensive draft report discussing base-line natural resource assessments and environmentally focused water needs within the Estuary is in process at this time. The entire draft report will be distributed for peer review in the near future.

A comprehensive draft report on issues of water supply reliability is also being prepared. At present, an outline has been circulated for peer review and the writing of the report will begin shortly.

Additionally, a proposed outline for a draft briefing report on levee stability issues, including seismicity and flooding hazards, will be circulated for peer review in the next couple of weeks.

### Modeling:

The staff is continuing its work on developing and refining scientific modeling capabilities to better assess environmental conditions in the Estuary and potential impacts resulting from implementation of various proposed actions. This includes working to secure agreements from interested parties and agencies on enhancements to the current Department of Water Resources simulation for hydrologic modeling, as well as DWR's Delta modeling.

### Work Plan:

The staff is continuing its efforts with regard to developing a detailed work plan in order to assign work to either specific agencies or outside contractors/consultants. This will be determined on the basis of which issues can be either more efficiently and objectively addressed outside the agencies or which the agencies do not have the resources to undertake.

One specific element of the Work Plan which has moved to the next stage is the joint acquisition with the Department of Water Resources of computer hardware for a Geographic Information System (GIS). The GIS will allow for the storing, mapping, comparing and analyzing of geographic resource data (e.g., location of wetlands, endangered species habitat, etc.) which then will allow for more timely impact analyses of proposed alternatives.

### Other Planning Processes:

The staff will continue to participate in and monitor other planning processes relevant to the BDOC's mission, including the Bureau of Reclamation's Central Valley Improvement Act implementation, the Corps of Engineers Levee Improvement program, and the Delta Protection Commission. As necessary, updates will be provided to inform you of pertinent actions taken and/or issues raised.

### Scoping:

The staff will also commence informal scoping discussions with federal agency personnel as a necessary first step in launching the comprehensive environmental documentation process which will comparatively evaluate recommended alternatives.