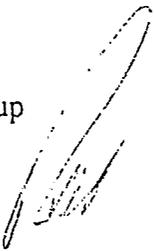


Memorandum

Date: November 7, 1996

To: Water Quality Technical Work Group

From: Rick Woodard
Water Quality Program Manager 

Subject: Meeting of the Water Quality Technical Work Group

Public involvement through a series of workshops led to development of water quality goals and objectives, and a set of about thirty actions which, if taken, should improve water quality in the Bay-Delta estuary. The immediate mission of the CALFED water quality team is to evaluate and recommend actions which should be taken irrespective of which Delta alternatives are ultimately selected through the CALFED process. These actions will constitute the "Water Quality Common Program" (WQCP). The currently identified actions will be evaluated for inclusion as elements of the WQCP.

Though the attention of the CALFED Water Quality Program Team is now turned to the *common* program, the team will also evaluate and recommend other water quality actions that should be taken in connection with implementing *specific* Delta alternatives, as these alternatives are identified at a later stage of the CALFED process.

In developing its work plan, the CALFED Water Quality Program Team came to the understanding that proposed actions would require detailed technical evaluation before being adopted into the WQCP. The team also concluded that, given available resources, not all of the proposed actions can be evaluated simultaneously. Accordingly, it was planned to establish a priority list for actions to be studied initially. Although some actions would not be studied initially, none are planned for elimination from consideration at this stage. Evolution of the CALFED process is expected to dictate the need for detailed evaluations of some proposed actions which are not presently perceived to have highest potential.

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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As a start to narrowing the field of actions to receive initial study, you participated on the agriculture, ecosystem, or municipal water quality work group. The three groups were asked to rank the proposed actions according to which ones appear to have the greatest potential for improving the quality of Bay-Delta estuary waters, taking into account technical feasibility, economics, and environmental factors. The products of the three groups are being compared and, though the results are not yet finalized, it appears there is a consensus that about ten actions should receive detailed study to begin immediately.

The process is now at the stage where it has become necessary to broaden the technical evaluation process to include all interests that would be significantly affected by implementing the proposed actions. Accordingly, an invitation is being sent to entities such as industrial, municipal, and agricultural dischargers, environmental advocacy organizations, and regulatory agencies, to make a technical contribution to the evaluation process. These entities are being invited to nominate a person possessing professional technical qualifications in the water quality field to represent their organization on a unified Water Quality Technical Work Group. This group will include technical representatives of all significant stakeholders who wish to be represented, and will be charged with working directly with the CALFED Water Quality Program Team in planning and conducting the scientific investigations of the proposed water quality actions.

On November 20, 1996, there will be a meeting of the Water Quality Technical Work Group. The enclosed meeting agenda demonstrates that the actions proposed for initial study and technical discussion of the study methodology will be the main subjects of discussion.

If you have any questions, please call me at (916) 653-5422. I look forward to seeing you on November 20.

Enclosure