MINUTES OF MEETING

CALFED Water Quality Technical Group
December 3, 1997
Bonderson Building, First Floor Hearing Room

Water Quality Technical Group: Jean-Pierre Cativiela, Kathy McLennon, Rich Breuer, Douglas Morrison, John Sanders, Amy Fowler, Linda Mercurio, John Davis, Jim Beck, Roger Mann, Jerry Boles, Elaine Archibald, John L. Turner, Russell E. Fuller, Tom Zuckerman, Bill Jennings, Robin Kirk, Murage Ngatia, Barry Gump, Jeanette Thomas, Jerry Troyan, Roy Wolfe, G. Fred Lee, Bill Alsop, Andy Rutledge, Inge Werner, Marguerite Young, Dan Otis, Stephen Murrill, Phil Wendt, Raymond Tom, Bill Crooks, Russ Grimes, K.T. Shum, Lynda Smith, Tom Grovhoug.

CALFED Team: Rick Woodard, Sarah Holmgren, Tanya Matson, Dale Flowers.

Meeting Format
The meeting consisted of four parts: Status of the Programmatic EIR/EIS and Water Quality Implementation Plan, Status of the Category III Project Proposals, Parameter Assessment Team Recommendations, and Water Quality Target (Bromide and TOC) Session Recommendations.

Program Status - Rick Woodard
At the last Water Quality Technical Group meeting, Rick Woodard indicated that he had been designated to participate in the process of developing the CALFED Preferred Alternative. To update the group on that process, a handout that included maps of the three alternatives was provided. Rick explained some of the differences between the three Alternatives. He also indicated that the details of the Alternatives were still being analyzed and refined.

Issues Raised:

• A question arose as to whether the Bay-Delta Advisory Council would refine these alternatives. The CALFED Management Team will meet on these alternatives December 11, Bay-Delta Advisory Council will meet on December 12 and the CALFED Policy Group will meet on December 18 and 19. A decision on the Draft Preferred Alternative should be made when the Policy Group meets on December 18 and 19. The choices are not simple and involve a lot of trade-offs. It is important to receive help from the Water Quality Technical Group (WQTG) and the public in general. The Draft Preferred Alternative is tentatively scheduled to be ready by the end of January and will be in the public arena for the ensuing year. Although the latest modeling information will not be available in the current draft, it will become available during the Programmatic EIR/EIS comment period and become part of the final Programmatic EIR/EIS.

D-034452

D-034452

Draft Implementation Plan - Sarah Holmgren
Sarah gave an overview on the Draft Implementation Plan and noted the handout of the draft outline of the Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan will identify the actions to be implemented. It will also include the development of a prioritization of the implementation of those actions. Key input from the Group will be necessary when determining what mechanism will be taken into consideration to prioritize projects to implement actions. The outline is provided to get started on development of the Implementation Plan. We need and strongly encourage the Group's feedback on the outline. We expect the Implementation Plan to be released by the end of next year.

Rick Woodard indicated that some preliminary comments from the Group within the next couple of weeks would be helpful. There is much work to be done and the Group's input on what resources should be committed to which priorities would assist in the decision-making process. The Implementation Plan will also be discussed at subsequent WQTG meetings.

Issues Raised:

• It was noted that the Implementation Plan outline appears to be only for the actions in the Water Quality Program. CALFED should have an Implementation Plan for the entire CALFED Bay-Delta Program. (Response: There will be an Implementation Plan for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, of which the Water Quality Implementation Plan will be a part.)

• Measure performance of an action by whether the action has been implemented not by whether a water quality target has been achieved.

• The BDAC Assurances Group withdrew their water quality package and is leaving the development of performance measures to the Water Quality Program.

• The Adaptive Management Plan should address impacts on water quality from the actions of other program elements. For instance, if other program actions have a potential to increase organic carbon levels, there should be a way to mitigate the problem. It has been requested that actions be analyzed to determine the mitigation if such an occurrence is realized; however, that type of analysis would get into more detail than required for the Programmatic EIR/EIS. Water quality program staff have tried to indicate what actions of other programs may increase or decrease water quality parameters of concern but mitigation measures are generally limited in light of the programmatic nature of the document.

• A question arose regarding environmental documentation of certain projects associated with the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. Phase III will involve project-specific environmental documentation. The Implementation Plan will identify a process for identifying projects that may affect beneficial uses.

Status of the Category III Project Proposals - Kate Hansel
Rick Woodard explained that Kate Hansel was unable to join us today. The Governor has requested information on Category III Proposals and Kate was requested to participate in providing that information. In her absence, information regarding Category III project proposals is included as Attachment A to these meeting minutes.

Parameter Assessment Team Recommendations - Bill Crooks
Mr. Crooks represented the PAT and informed the Water Quality Technical Group of the results of the morning PAT meeting. Please see the meeting minutes from the PAT meeting for a complete description of the meeting discussions. He explained that the PAT is a group of technical experts who recommend parameters of concern for the Water Quality Program and pass those recommendations onto the Water Quality Technical Group. The Water Quality Technical Group then takes those recommendations and decides what recommendations to make to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

The water quality parameters of concern were originally established during a year long process. Three groups were convened: agriculture, urban and environmental to determine parameters of concern. Together they developed a list of parameters of concern and associated target levels. The focus of the PAT meeting was whether to add monocyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, arsenic, simazine, chlorine, dioxins, oil/grease, boat exhaust/gasoline byproducts, phosphorus, ziram, chromium VI, MTBE, and PAHs to the parameters of concern list and whether to delete carbofuran, chlorpyrifos, and diazinon from the parameters of concern list. Individuals proposing that items be added or deleted from the list presented their case to the PAT. Based on the information provided by these individuals and the guidelines for adding/deleting a parameter of concern, the PAT is making the following recommendations to the Water Quality Technical Group:

- Leave carbofuran, chlorpyrifos, and diazinon on the parameters of concern list;
- Chromium VI should be listed on a new list for potential parameters of concern;
- Add bioavailable phosphorus, add nitrogen and nitrite under nutrients. (Nutrients are already listed as a parameter of concern on the list and nitrogen and nitrite will clarify nutrients. More data is needed regarding these.)

The PAT was unable to address some of the requests for additions in the time frame of the meeting. The group decided to meet again in late-January to discuss the requests for additions as well as establishing guidelines for adding or deleting parameters of concern and how to establish target ranges for the parameters of concern. In future meetings, those requesting to add or delete parameters of concern should submit a two-page outline of the scientific evidence and reasons for adding or deleting that parameter of concern to the PAT.

D-034454

D-034454

Rick Woodard stated that CALFED's mission statement is to provide good water quality for all beneficial uses. When the PAT was originally convened, volunteers of varying perspectives and expertise were asked to participate. The PAT exists to assist CALFED in determining parameters of concern and target ranges for those parameters of concern. We should be open to changes in the parameters of concern and target levels as necessary information becomes available. This may be part of the adaptive management strategy of the Implementation Plan. If there are additional experts who would like to participate on the PAT, Rick invited them to submit an application to him.

Issues Raised

• The PAT voiced concern regarding whether or not comments are being addressed and responded to by CALFED. Some PAT members requested that comments of all stakeholders be available to the public for review. Judy Heath indicated during the PAT meeting that comments are a matter of public record and are available. Rick Woodard stated that CALFED considers all the stakeholder input and incorporates that input where appropriate. CALFED is working constantly to incorporate comments, however, due to the volume, is always behind. CALFED is unable to respond to every letter it receives. The Executive Director of CALFED decides which comments require specific written program responses and forwards that correspondence to staff for development of the response. The response is drafted and then forwarded to upper management for disposition.

• CALFED should consider posting comments on a website to make them available for others. (Response: The process for posting comments on a website will need to be addressed by CALFED. Anyone who wants copies of the letters sent to CALFED should send a request to Judy Heath or Rick Woodard).

Water Quality Target (Bromide and TOC) Session Recommendations - Roy Wolfe
Rick Woodard provided background on the session. The August 1997 Water Quality Component Report listed target levels in source water for bromide and TOC as 50 μg/L and 3 mg/L, respectively, in drinking water sources. These values for bromide and TOC were recommended by the Parameter Assessment Team for source water because these concentrations in drinking water can be treated while providing flexibility to meet drinking water regulations. However, comments from the USEPA indicated that there should be ranges which will reflect regulatory uncertainty, rather than specific numbers.

Roy Wolfe explained that with respect to bromide, drinking water quality in the Delta is very poor compared to 95 percent of the rest of the country. In its rulemaking, USEPA usually determines that outliers have to undertake treatment to meet requirements. However, treatments such as reverse osmosis membranes result in the loss of 20 to 25 percent of water. New treatment technologies are costly and urban water agencies would like to have 50 μg/L bromide to ensure treatment can be effectively accomplished at reasonable cost. The USEPA suggested further analysis to determine if it is feasible for a higher bromide level than 50 μg/L. This analysis should

have a range of results to determine different levels of treatment for different levels of a constituent and the associated economic costs. Urban water agencies agreed to assist CALFED in performing the modeling which should be completed within the next 3 - 6 months.

Wrap-Up - Rick Woodard
Rick thanked all those who participated in the Parameter Assessment Team meeting and the Water Quality Target (Bromide and TOC) Session as well as everyone in attendance at the Water Quality Technical Group meeting. CALFED has difficult decisions to make and your participation and input is very valuable. The next meeting will be held during the last week of February, 1998. The Programmatic EIR/EIS should have become available by then and we will be interested in your reactions and comments.