

Attachment

Summary of Water Quality Technical Group Meeting July 29, 1998

Introduction - Rick Woodard opened the meeting by reviewing the agenda and providing an overview of the CALFED process for integrating revisions into the Final Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR package to be released to the public. All revisions to the Water Quality Program Technical Appendix should be completed by August 28th, which is the internal deadline for incorporating any changes into the revised package. Rick indicated that he anticipated receiving today (or very soon) the final work products from the various working groups who have been working hard to refine the water quality problem statements and actions. Some pieces of these products will be incorporated into the EIS/EIR technical appendix; others will become part of the Implementation Strategy.

Rick stated that CALFED water quality staff are currently working on three primary activities: refining the program component, putting together the bromide expert panel, and reviewing public comments received on the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR.

Bromide Expert Panel - Rick provided an update on the status of the Bromide Expert Panel. The panel will be comprised of five people (area of expertise indicated in parentheses): Gary Amy, University of Colorado (chemistry of disinfection byproducts); Richard Bull, Batelle Laboratories (health effects of disinfection byproducts); Kenneth Kerri, California State University (source control and waste water pretreatment); Stig Regli, US EPA Headquarters (regulation development); and Philip Singer, University of North Carolina (water treatment). These persons were selected from the list of about 18 nominated candidates, based on the recommendations of the WQTG. It was decided that, based on broad stakeholder support for these candidates, it was worth postponing the workshop until all could participate. Given his limited availability, Stig Regli will participate in the 2-day workshop session but may not be a "full" panel member who will help write the final report.

With regard to process, Rick indicated that the panel will: receive and review support materials in advance of the workshop; convene on September 8 & 9th for a 2-day workshop; participate in post-workshop discussion and report preparation activities; and produce a Panel report on or about October 1st. The Draft Report outline includes the following components:

- formation, chemistry & health effects of disinfection byproducts;
- balancing the need for disinfection with concerns about disinfection byproduct formation;
- capabilities of treatment plants to meet current and future anticipated standards;
- trends in treatment research & development;
- source control options;
- operation options; and
- identifying the optimal mix of source control and treatment to maximize health protection while minimizing both costs and environmental impacts.

Rick suggested that some of the background information (i.e. the first two bullets) might be prepared by staff, to enable the panel to focus on the key issues of concern (i.e. the latter five bullets).

Members of the Water Quality Technical Group raised concerns regarding the uncertainty of modelling (particularly results from DSM2) in accurately predicting salinity impacts of the various conveyance alternatives. Some suggested that CALFED should ensure that there is appropriate expertise to evaluate the efficacy of the models. Rick indicated that Greg Gartrell of Contra Costa Water District volunteered to provide technical support to the Bromide Panel on modeling; he solicited written comments or suggestions from the WQTG on other technical expertise needed to support the Bromide Panel, or other mechanisms for addressing these concerns. Rick also solicited input on appropriate materials to provide to panel members in advance of the meeting, and other general technical support that would be appropriate. In response to another query, Rick said he would distribute the list of questions that are being posed to the Panel after it has been finalized. He is still working from the draft list of 9 questions that was previously distributed.

Workgroup Summaries - Rick reminded the group that 6 workgroups had been formed in April to refine specific portions of the Water Quality Common Program. These groups are: Drinking Water, Salinity & Selenium; Pesticides; Nutrients & Sediment; Metals (Cu, Cd and Zn); and Mercury. The following people gave overviews of their respective group's activities (copies of the overheads are attached to this summary).

Salinity & Selenium	Manucher Alemi, DWR
Drinking Water	Bruce Macler, US EPA
Mercury (and Metals)	Gail Louis, US EPA
Nutrients & Sediment	Doug Morrison, US FWS
Pesticides	Steve Shaffer, CDFA

Most of the groups are still in the process of refining the actions, although draft work products are available for review. Each group committed to getting copies of the work products to Rick for a rapid distribution to the larger Water Quality Technical Group for review and comment. Given the limited time for compiling a final product for inclusion with the revised EIS/EIR package, Rick requested that members conduct a "red flag" review of the draft work products and provide comments ASAP.

Rick noted that the products from the workgroups represent stakeholder-produced input and that some actions or proposals may not necessarily become a part of the CALFED program depending upon the level of support, consistency with CALFED policy, and conformity to CALFED solution principles.

Next Meeting - The group agreed to meet again during the week of September 28th. Specific date and location will be determined and the WQTG will be notified.