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Greetings:

Per Judy Heath and Rick Woodard of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, following is a Background of the CALFED Water Quality Program and Suggested Guidelines for Adding/Deleting a Parameter of Concern. You may use the suggested guidelines to craft your presentations to the PAT members at the Parameter Assessment team tomorrow morning at 9 a.m.

CALFED Water Quality Program

Background

The CALFED Water Quality Program has relied on the expertise of a large body of water quality technical experts to assist in the development of the Water Quality Program. In mid-1996, three technical teams of stakeholders were formed to identify the source water quality requirements of environment, urban, and agriculture water users. The environment team was primarily comprised of federal and state agency representatives and representatives of environmental interest groups were invited to participate, including local environmental groups. The urban team included both agency staff and urban water agency representatives. The agriculture team was represented by agency staff, farmers, and agricultural water suppliers. Using available data and technical knowledge, the three teams identified parameters that were of "concern" to their respective beneficial uses of water, and identified actions that might be taken to reduce these parameters. The teams identified parameters of concern based on a variety of criteria. Based on the findings of these three teams, a list of parameters of concern was developed for the Water Quality Program. These parameters of concern are:

Metals & Toxic Elements	**Organics/Pesticides**	**Disinfection By-Product Precursors**	**Other**
Cadmium	Carbofuran	Bromide	Ammonia
Copper	Chlordane	TOC	Dissolved Oxygen
Mercury	Chlorpyrifos		Salinity (TDS, EC)
Selenium	DDT		Temperature
Zinc	Diazinon		Turbidity
	PCBs		Toxicity of Unknown Origin*
	Toxaphene		Pathogens
			Nutrients (Nitrate)
			pH (Alkalinity)
			Chloride
			Boron
			SAR

*Toxicity of Unknown Origin refers to observed aquatic toxicity, the source of which is unknown.

This list can change over time in response to additional knowledge.

In October 1996, once the teams had identified parameters of concern and actions to reduce these parameters, the teams were brought together to form the Water Quality Technical Group. The purpose of the Water Quality Technical Group is to provide water quality recommendations to the CALFED Water Quality Program. The Water Quality Technical Group is composed of members from the three original teams and additional stakeholders. The stakeholders include not only water users, but also those who might be impacted by implementation of the recommended water quality actions (e.g., parties responsible for mine drainage, agricultural drainage, urban runoff, wastewater, and industrial discharges, etc.) and representatives of environmental watershed interests.

The purpose of the Parameter Assessment Team is to evaluate technical information and provide recommendation to the Water Quality Technical Group. The first meeting of the PAT took place in April 1997 and was convened to evaluate existing water quality standards and criteria. The PAT is composed of 18 technical experts from the CALFED Water Quality Technical Group representing agricultural, drinking water and ecosystem interests. In April, the PAT recommended various water quality target ranges for protection of ecosystem, agriculture, and drinking water beneficial uses.

In addition to the PAT and Water Quality Technical Group meetings, CALFED staff have held workshops to inform the general public about the Water Quality Program's activities. CALFED staff have met with a variety of groups including the Clean Water Caucus, California Water Environment Association, and the California Urban Water Agencies. The CALFED Bay Delta Advisory Committee has been kept apprised of the Program's progress through informational segments at their regularly scheduled meetings. Stakeholder involvement in CALFED water quality activities is planned to continue throughout the course of the CALFED Program.

Attachment A is the set of proposed criteria which can guide the Parameter Assessment Team in adding or deleting parameters of concern. A list of the parameters which stakeholders are proposing to add or delete have been previously sent to you in the agenda notice. The Parameter Assessment Team is requested to review the following criteria for use at the next meeting on December 3, 1997. This criteria can be modified over time as new information becomes available. Attachment B indicates the parameters of concern for which there have been requests for additions or deletions.

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Attachment A

Suggested Guidelines For Adding/Deleting A Parameter Of Concern

General

- Demonstrated linkage to CALFED objectives, goals and solution principles

Geographic Scope

- The parameter is causing a water quality problem within CALFED's geographical scope
- The geographic extent is the export and source areas affected by CALFED actions including Sacramento Basin, San Joaquin Basin, Tulare Lake Basin, Southern California, other export areas
- Ameliorating water quality problems will benefit the Bay-Delta

Problem

- A problem is generally recognized by the resource and regulatory agencies
- Chronic or acute toxicity in bioassays is attributable to a parameter based on a toxic identification evaluations (TIE)
- The characteristics of irrigation water that significantly influence sustainable agricultural production or O & M of irrigation facilities and on-farm systems
- Federal or state drinking water standards are exceeded in treated water taken from the Delta
- Raw water concentrations require extremely expensive treatment that may or may not satisfy future drinking water standards
- Aesthetic qualities of drinking water are impacted
- Local wastewater reclamation and groundwater recharge programs are endangered
- Economic impacts on consumers are incurred

Scientific Evidence

- Preponderance of data on the parameter shows:

  concentrations exceed established criteria for the applicable medium (e.g., water, sediment, or tissue) and;

  the exceedances are of a frequency, duration or magnitude that may likely result in adverse impacts to biota inhabiting or using the Delta aquatic ecosystem

Research/special studies show a preponderance of evidence of discernible impacts such as, but not limited to behavioral, physiological or reproductive impacts associated with a parameter

Attachment B

Parameters of Concern Requested to be Added or Deleted

Added

- monocyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
- arsenic
- simazine (trade name Princep)
- boat exhaust/gasoline byproducts
- chlorine
- ziram
- chromium VI
- phosphorus
- dioxins
- PAHs
- MTBE
- oil/grease

Deleted

- carbofuran
- chlorpyrifos
- diazinon