

## MEMORANDUM

July 18, 1997

TO: Roger Mann

FROM: Elaine Archibald *EWA*

SUBJECT: Ag/Urban Water Quality Technical Team Comments on Economics Analysis

The Ag/Urban Water Quality Technical Team reviewed your memorandum on the CALFED water quality program economics analysis during our conference call on July 17. Unfortunately, the discussion was somewhat limited because neither you nor Rick Woodard was able to participate in the call. We offer the following comments and questions for your consideration:

- **Source Control Actions** - The CALFED Water Quality Program Programmatic Actions contain a number of costly source control actions (e.g. mine drainage remediation). Will the cost of source control programs be included in the economics analysis? We recommend that they be included in the economic analysis and can offer assistance in several areas.
- **Organic Carbon/Bromide Modeling** - We would like more detail on the modeling that will be used to estimate the drinking water costs associated with various source water quality scenarios. Specifically, we would like to review the source water quality estimates for TOC and bromide that will be used as input values to the treatment cost model. We understand that Malcolm Pirnie is currently developing a model for DWR that determines treatment techniques and costs associated with source water quality levels in the Delta. Is this different than the model you refer to as having been developed by Malcolm Pirnie for EPA? It is our understanding that the DWR/Malcolm Pirnie model is not yet completed and won't likely be usable within the next month.
- **Salinity Modeling** - The MWDSC salinity model is specific to the MWDSC service area. A considerable amount of effort would need to be expended to expand this model beyond MWDSC's service area. Are you undertaking this effort? If not, how will you estimate salinity impacts in other service areas (e.g. South Bay Aqueduct, North Bay Aqueduct)? MWDSC is currently updating the model that was previously sent to you. Please contact Kevin Donhoff at (213) 217-6359 for more information on the model and the schedule for development.
- **Economic Benefits to Agriculture** - It was not clear from your memorandum if your analysis will include an estimation of the economic benefits to agriculture of improving source water quality. For example, reduced salinity in delivered irrigation water translates

into more flexibility in crop selection and reduced drainage management costs and increased economic life of drainage impacted lands.

- **Conflict Between Water Conservation and Water Quality** - As agriculture water users become more efficient in their use of water, drainage water quality is often degraded and the rice industry is faced with using increasing amounts of pesticides and reduced crop yields as a result of the need to recirculate water on the fields. The California Rice Industry Association is developing information on the cost of recirculation pumps to improve water quality conditions on individual farms. Jeff Jaraczekski of the Northern California Water Association (916) 442-8333 can provide you with information on this.
- **Grasslands Basin Drainage Program Cost Information** - The Grasslands Basin Drainage Program has developed cost information for complying with selenium standards. Joe McGahan of Summers Engineering (209) 582-9237 can provide you with information on this.

I will be on vacation until August 4. In my absence, please contact the individuals listed in this memorandum or Byron Buck at CUWA (916) 552-2929. Good luck with your analysis. We look forward to reviewing preliminary work products and assisting you wherever possible.

cc: Rick Woodard  
Ag/Urban Water Quality Technical Team