

Summary of Meeting Transfers Agency Group July 3, 1997

Key Discussion Items

- Status of the BDAC Water Transfer Work Group - The first meeting is scheduled for August 7, 1997, 9:30 to 12:30, in the Resources Building. Discussion was held regarding what relevant information should be mailed to Work Group participants prior to meeting.
- Review and discussion of revised draft water transfer discussion paper.
- Review and discussion of the first draft issues papers for issues 1 and 18. (Time was not available to discuss any of the other draft issue papers.)

Issues and Discussion Points

- CALFED is looking for concurrence from this group as well as the PCT regarding the appropriateness of the draft water transfers discussion paper. Upon concurrence, the draft discussion paper would be made available to the BDAC work group. The group discussed the characterization in the draft paper of issues 9 through 18. These issues were added based on discussion at the last meeting of this group. Several suggestions were made to revise wording or provide explanatory sentences for each.
- Some concern was expressed regarding the draft sheet of fundamental assumptions. It was felt that bullet points 1 and 6 need to be revised to reflect the limitations of transfers and the future role (or lack thereof) for CALFED in transfers.
- There was general consensus that the issue papers should be used to help define each issue, objectively show any contrasting viewpoints, and provide suggestions for resolution. It should also provide an opportunity to articulate the position of the CALFED agencies. The point was made that the group's effort should be focused on finding solutions, and the not much time should be spent drafting and revising the issue papers.
- A suggestion was made that resolution of issues be made using small groups who can focus on specific issues, devise solutions or processes to obtain solution, then bring these back to the BDAC work group for consensus. There is concern over the legality of using small focus groups, but it was generally agreed to be a useful process. Concern was also raised over the process of getting "buy-in" from stakeholders who are not part of each small focus group. To generate support for a proposed solutions may require that everybody go through the same thought process as the focus group.
- Concern was expressed regarding the general tone in Issue Paper #1. Some felt that wording used could further polarize the various interested parties. It was also unclear that this issue focused on the inclusion of percolated surface water as conservable and transferable. There was general consensus that the issue needed to be better defined and maybe broken into subsets to clarify the various sub-issues.
- It was suggested that the two example transfers referred to in Issue Paper #1 on page 1-4 should be modified. They are misrepresented in this context.

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Action Items

- CALFED staff will revise the list of issues presented in Section F of the draft discussion paper. Draft paper will then be presented to the PCT.
- Rick Soehren will revise the draft sheet of fundamental assumptions based on comments for presentation to the PCT.
- Group participants will review draft work plan and schedule and provide comments to Rick Soehren by July 17. Those with comments can contact Rick individually. Rick will have a revised work plan by the next meeting of this group.
- Rick Soehren will check on the legality of using small focus groups to identify potential solutions to issues.
- CALFED staff will revise current set of issue papers based on comments from agency representatives.
- Bureau of Reclamation representatives will revise the last paragraph in the discussion on page 1-4 of Issue Paper #1 and provide the revised paragraph to Rick Soehren by July 17.
- Mike Heaton will work with agency representatives to redraft Issue Paper #1 to better define and clarify primary issues regarding conservation of water and its transferability.

The next meeting of the Transfers Agency Group is scheduled for July 29, 1997, 9 a.m. in the Resources Building (location to be determined).