

To: Mike Fris and Marty Kie

From: Paul Cylinder

Date: October 28, 1998

Re: CALFED Conservation Strategy Team Potential Topics for Discussion at Future Team Meetings

There are some major topic areas that need to be discussed by the CS Team to support development of subsequent versions of the CS Report and supporting materials. The following sections summarize topic areas that could be the focus of upcoming CS Team meetings. We could take a brainstorm approach as we did with our discussion of Section 7 compliance on October 19. I would be glad to develop a meeting agenda for one or all these topic areas. Please let me know what you wish to do.

1. Species Conservation Matrices

Draft conservation matrices were completed for 50 species in early September. Only the effects of ERP, Water Quality Program (Delta only), and Levee System Integrity Program actions were assessed. We need to revisit these matrices to decide how to proceed with the revision of existing matrices and development of matrices for new species. Topics for discussion could include:

- What will be the process for identifying/selecting/describing Water Use Efficiency and Water Transfer common program, water storage, conveyance, and operations actions that should be analyzed for the PEIR/EIS?
- How do we want to revise the structure/content of the matrices, which represents one type of summary table that would be generated from the database?
- Do we want to separate the analysis of overall effects of each program to be able to distinguish benefits and mitigation requirements associated with each program from other programs?
- Is there a priority for selecting the next "batch" of species for which to prepare matrices? What is the goal for completing all matrices relative to preparation of the December PEIR/EIS?
- What will be the process for and time of reviews by species experts/DFG/FWS staff?
- What types of summary tables do we want to create from the data base?
- What is the process and time line for CALFED adopting CS recommended conservation measures into CALFED programs?

- Will we be moving conservation measures off of the matrices as they become incorporated into CALFED programs? (What will this process be?)

2. NCCP and CESA Compliance

We have spent a lot of time on FESA compliance issues, but have not discussed the structure of NCCP/CESA compliance. Topics we may want to discuss include:

- Will there be a programmatic NCCP and what form will it take?
- Will the CS serve as a programmatic NCCP?
- Will we prepare "conservation matrices" for NCCP covered habitats? What form would these matrices take?
- What state take authorization will be provided at the time of the federal BO? (Will take be authorized under Section 2080.1 for jointly listed species?)
- If there is a programmatic NCCP what form will the tiered NCCPs take? (subregional NCCPs?)
- How will DFG expedite the Section 2081 process for Type 2 Actions?
- How will we deal with fully protected species?

3. Assurances/Certainty/Predictability: Chapter 13 of the CS

The CS Team has not fully discussed the issues and approach of providing assurances under federal and California ESA programs. The following are topic areas for discussion:

- Safe harbors
- No surprises
- Adjacent and neighboring landowners
- Changed and unforeseen circumstances