

**CONSERVATION STRATEGY TEAM
DECEMBER 8, 1998 MEETING SUMMARY**

Attendees: Mike Fris, Jeff Single, Ray McDowell, Paul Cylinder, Pete Rawlings, Gerrit Platenkamp, Kelly Berger

Results of CALFED Managers Meeting on the Conservation Strategy Structure

- Bundle 1 will be separate from the programmatic Conservation Strategy (CS).
- The schedule is to have bundle 1 actions permitted at the time the PEIS/EIR ROD is issued.
- CALFED is currently investigating ways to use an environmental water account to meet fish needs in Stage 1
- Type 1-3 take authorizations proposed for the CS were well received.
- A Type 4 authorization is proposed that would require separate authorization from Types 1-3.
- USFWS view is that the standard of species "recovery" described in Ecosystem Restoration Program goals should be the same as defined under the federal Endangered Species Act. This may require that the CS be modified to adopt recovery goals in existing recovery plans or that the CS be adopted as a recovery plan for some species in the future.
- The proposed approach for developing habitat evaluation tables for analyzing and presenting potential program impacts was well received.
- Agreed to the need for getting species expert staff assigned to review habitat evaluation tables and other CS documentation.
- Another staff person may be appointed with CS type experience to assist with drafting and editing the CS (Sandy Guldman?).
- The CS will need to address program assurances. Assurances will likely be provided in an overall program contract.

Summary of Meeting with the CS Acquaintances Group

- Appeared to agree with the process proposed in the CS for permitting (i.e., Types 1-3).

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- Indicated some concern that the CS is not integrating relevant elements of the ERP Strategic Plan. The Group indicated one approach may be to reconvene the Core Team to assist in development of an ERP Stage 1 implementation plan.
- CS team has requested a list of persons from stakeholders who would be qualified and willing to participate in review of the CS habitat/fish group evaluations (i.e., evaluation tables).

NCCP Evaluation Habitats and Fish Groups

- Tentative agreement with proposed habitat types, except that some habitat types may be able to be combined in the analysis (e.g., nontidal and tidal saline emergent).
- Tentative agreement with proposed fish species groups to be analyzed, but noted there may be a future need to develop individual species evaluation tables.

Species x Habitat Matrix

- Uses for the matrix include GIS analyses, development of habitat evaluation tables, and development of the CS database.
- The matrix should identify primary species/habitat associations, but will need to ensure that secondary habitat associations are documented (e.g., use of adjacent uplands by wetland species as flood refugia). Secondary habitat requirements would be documented in species accounts and should be considered in developing conservation measures.

Habitat Evaluation Table Structure

- Tentative agreement on the structure proposed for habitat evaluation tables. May be a future requirement to add a row to summarize overall effects of each individual CALFED program.

Possible GIS Analysis Products

- tabular data of existing habitat and proposed restored/enhanced habitats
- spatial/temporal distribution of actions
- at programmatic level, consider using species x habitat matrix and species distribution by ecozone data rather than GIS data

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- will need to consider other conservation and development programs (e.g., HCP's, protected lands, potential for future urban development)

GIS Demonstration

- show existing habitat by ecozone
- show and tabularize data
- demonstrate changes over time
- show species associated to habitats
- include an example of an analysis of CALFED program effects in the demonstration
- identify long-term utility of GIS, including integration for other CALFED uses

Actions Items

- Complete draft species x habitat by Dec. 16 - JSA
- Mike Fris will secure review of draft summary outcomes by program managers Dec. 16
- Develop a draft format for species experts meetings by Dec. 16 - JSA
- Prepare a sample habitat evaluation table by Dec. 16- JSA
- Provide species accounts for 50 delta species by Dec. 16- JSA
- Initiate preparation of species accounts for +150 remaining evaluation species- JSA

Topics for December 16, 1998 Meeting

- Update on the status of the GIS demonstration
- Changes to draft summary outcomes
- Update on NCCP compliance, assurances, and other CS issues
- CS report outline
- Process for species expert review of CS analysis

Next Meetings

- December 16, 1998, 1-5PM at JSA
- January 5, 1999, 9-12AM at JSA

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