

# CALFED Conservation Strategy

## Staff Team Meeting Notes

January 5, 1999  
1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

These meeting notes summarize major topics of discussion. The attendance list, action items and a list of upcoming meetings are included at the end of these notes.

### 1. Status Report on Developing Species Goals

JSA is preparing the package of information to be distributed to species experts on 1/20/99. In the meeting at JSA earlier on 1/5/99, the group worked on framing questions to include in the package. There is not enough time for thorough internal review of the material; however, the draft material to be distributed is not considered public information. The species experts are to provide technical information to the agencies. For purposes of the meetings with species experts, species are grouped by habitat types.

It is crucial that all the information in the species accounts is thoroughly supported by references. JSA staff are documenting what they prepare. Marti Kie and Michael Fris are responsible for checking the JSA material and for ensuring that the information provided by species experts is adequately supported by citations.

Some of the species experts, especially for plants, will be from outside the involved agencies. Agency biologists will check on the availability of these experts and develop a schedule for the review that makes the best use of non-agency experts' available time. Non-agency experts will usually be contacted by staff from the agency recommending their participation.

The definitions of the three goals - R, r, and m - need to be made clear as they relate to CALFED actions. R(ecovery) is unambiguous. However, defining r (contribute to recovery) and m(aintain) may involve policy decisions. These definitions need to be consistent with requirements for ecosystem enhancement under the NCCP Act. It is likely that the ERPP defines "contribute to recovery" differently than the Conservation Strategy. This difference needs to be resolved.

The task of ensuring that actions to benefit one species do not adversely impact another species will take very careful analysis of all measures recommended in the Conservation Strategy. Because there are so many species, this will not be a simple task.

### 2. Status Report on GIS

JSA is developing the GIS using existing data layers (e.g. Ducks Unlimited, National Wetland Inventory, DWR information) and by digitizing CALFED maps. The habitat maps are ready and these will be the most useful to the Conservation Strategy team.

It was agreed that at this stage, there will be no attempt to characterize agricultural land with respect to its habitat value. If a species expert recommends maintaining or introducing a management practice on agricultural land or conservation of agricultural land, the expert will be asked to be specific about the

techniques and/or crop types that provide habitat for the species under discussion. When that information has been developed, then the decision will be made as to how to characterize it in terms of habitat/land use and whether to include it in the conservation strategy. This may involve policy decisions.