

February 11, 1997

Lester,

Here is a description of the process the water users would like to use, preferably under CalFed auspices, to try to reach consensus on technical issues underlying the AFRP and, for that matter, any CalFed Delta operational requirements.

I would suggest talking to Scott McCreary about this. I got some of what is written below from a paper by him.

**PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTION OF BIOLOGICAL CONSENSUS PROCESS AMONG
WATER USERS, ENVIRONMENTALISTS, AND STATE/FEDERAL AGENCIES**

Involves all the critical technical or quasi-technical people (e.g., environmentalists, state/federal agency people, and water user agency staff and policy people as well as, say, academicians).

Structured such that all participants must deal directly with key data and analyses. No one gets to sit on the sidelines and throw bombs later.

Is run by a non-involved expert (not just a general facilitator), perceived as neutral, one of whose primary jobs is to see that the rules are followed.

Operates to a set of agreed-upon rules such as the following:

Proceeds through an orderly, agreed-upon sequence of relevant aspects of key issues (for example: Do fish go with the flow? What is the role of other factors (fishing boating, toxics, etc.) in the fisheries declines? What are the key factors

affecting San Joaquin River salmon? What is the best way to control exports to reduce adverse effects on fish and other species? Should the Cross Channel be closed to protect fish and if so, when?)

Whenever possible, consensus is reached on key conclusions (consensus meaning that even though everyone may not be wholeheartedly in agreement, everyone can live with the conclusion).

Where consensus cannot be reached, the points of disagreement are clearly stated with supporting rationale.

All proposals , suggestions, etc. must be dealt with.

Supported by a team of analysts, perceived as neutral or at least canceling each other out, who can develop information for the process participants

Is driven to conclusions on which actions or management decisions can be based

Centered around the production of a single, understandable document, acceptable to the lay person and technical expert, setting forth the points of agreement, points of disagreement, and management implications of these points.

If you want to discuss this further, please give me a call.

Thanks,

B.J.