



M e m o r a n d u m

Date: November 25, 1998

To: Hon. Bruce Babbitt
Secretary of the Interior

George Dunn, Chief of Staff
Governor Pete Wilson

From: Lester A. Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program



Subject: CALFED Stakeholder Meetings - Status of Action Items for Future Meetings

I want to take the opportunity to provide you with a status report on the action items from the November meetings and a summary of the strategy for the remaining meetings with stakeholders and agency representatives. I feel the meetings have been very successful in bringing out the viewpoints of the interest groups and identifying common areas of agreement. The stakeholders have generally been quite pleased with the progress made in these meetings. To date five action items have been generated from the November 10 and November 17-18 CALFED meetings. I have provided an update on each for your information. Also attached is a one page summary of the strategy for the remaining meetings to prepare for the release of the draft Phase II Report on December 18.

Action Items

1. Water Quality/Conveyance. At the November 10 meeting a group of agency representatives and stakeholders was formed to propose language changes to the Phase II Report regarding water quality and conveyance. Areas of concern that were to be addressed by the group included: actions which provide continuous improvement in water quality; emphasizing the full range of water quality actions from research to project implementation; milestones and benchmarks for the water quality program; and stronger linkage between the conveyance and water quality actions. The group has provided staff advice in preparing draft language to be presented at the December 1 meeting.

CALFED Agencies

California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal
Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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2. Watershed Management. At the November 10 meeting there was general agreement to pursue State Legislation establishing a "California Watershed Management Act". I have requested the CALFED Watershed Work Group to initiate the process to prepare this legislation for introduction at the next legislative session.
3. CALFED Implementation Structure. At the November 10 meeting we discussed the need to evaluate options for long-term implementation of the CALFED Program. There was agreement at the meeting to use a private foundation to sponsor a process where agency and stakeholder representatives would evaluate the need for an ecosystem entity in the context of the larger CALFED implementation structure. As decided at the meeting, we have requested Michael Mantell to work with selected stakeholders to develop the process. The group has been asked to provide a description of the process by early December.
4. Diversion Effects on Fish. At the November 17 meeting, Tim Quinn and Mike Spear were asked to convene a working group of agency representatives and stakeholders to discuss and refine the issues for a hybrid operational scenario with particular attention to an environmental water account. The working group met on November 24. The stakeholders and agencies generally agreed that under certain conditions, an environmental water account could provide fish protection. A conceptual hybrid scenario and variations of that scenario are being developed and will be presented at the December 2 meeting.
5. Agricultural Water Use Efficiency. At the November 18 meeting it was agreed that specific issues needed to be addressed with the agricultural water use efficiency program. As a result of that discussion, the existing CALFED Agricultural Water Use Efficiency Focus Group was asked to provide information at a future stakeholder meeting on the subject of agricultural water use efficiency incentives, milestones to measure progress and corresponding changes to Stage 1 actions. The Focus Group has met several times to respond to the request and there will be a status report at the December 1 meeting.

Thank you for your continued support of the CALFED Bay Delta Program. I look forward to the additional discussions as we move into these next several critical weeks.

Attachment