



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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Date: February 13, 1997
To: CALFED Agencies
From: Lester A. Snow, Executive Director
CALFED.Bay-Delta Program
Subject: Upcoming CALFED Policy Group Meeting

*Sharon Gross
for*

The CALFED Policy Group will meet on **Wednesday, February 19, 1997, from 1 - 4 p.m. in Room 1131** of the Resources Building. Attached is a draft agenda for this meeting (Attachment 1) and a summary of the last Management Team meeting on January 31, 1997 (Attachment 2).

As discussed in the previous memorandum, we have attempted to categorize agenda items (discussion, status/update, and review/concurrence) to help CALFED agencies prepare for the meetings. A more detailed description of the agenda items and attachments follows:

A. CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Review of Schedule (Status/Update)

CALFED staff will provide a general overview of the schedule (Attachment 3) for EIS/EIR development. Additionally, we will also discuss the concerns of various stakeholders relative to the schedule. Primary concerns have focused on the potential inadequacy of time for review (and potential revisions) of the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan.

Major Milestones and Phase II Approvals (Discussion)

Major milestones in the development of the EIS/EIR have been identified and were discussed in a memorandum about Phase II Approvals (part of the January 31, Management Team pre-meeting package). The attached memo (Attachment 4) identifies the decision points or milestones where agreement is needed and lays out a timeframe for introducing the documents to the CALFED Management Team and Policy Group. The appropriate level and form of approval for each agency must be identified and agreed to by all the agencies.

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
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

Purpose and Need Statement (Review/Concurrence)

The first of the milestones or points of decision discussed previously is the Purpose and Need Statement. Attached (Attachment 5) is a memorandum describing the comments received since the last meeting of the CALFED Management Team and how those comments have been addressed. The CALFED Program will seek approval of the final Purpose and Need Statement at this meeting.

CALFED Decision Making Process (Discussion)

CALFED staff currently prepare policy statements and issue papers for discussion of options to address issues or to facilitate decisions by the CALFED agencies. Several of these issues have been presented and discussed at agency Program Coordination Team meetings (agency staff liaisons). A process to discuss issues and identify options to resolve them is necessary before issues are elevated to the Management Team and Policy Group for discussion and/or decisions. This process is critical in allowing the program to move at the pace which the schedule currently allows. CALFED staff will discuss a process to ensure that that issues are discussed and decisions made in a timely fashion.

B. Ecosystem Restoration

Ecosystem Roundtable (Status/Update)

Cindy Darling will provide an update on the activities of the Ecosystem Roundtable and relevant issues under discussion. The Roundtable is scheduled to meet the day after the Policy Group meeting (February 20) and Cindy will review the agenda items, expected actions, and concerns. Cindy will also review the schedule for approval and funding of Category III projects. A revised Implementation Strategy, based on comments from both the CALFED Management Team and the Ecosystem Roundtable, is attached (Attachment 6).

Restoration Coordination (Status/Update)

Kate Hansel will provide an overview of the activities that she has been conducting to enhance coordination between existing Federal and State restoration programs (CVPIA, etc.) and the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

Restoration Strategies resulting from Floods (Discussion)

At the last CALFED Management Team there was substantial discussion regarding the recent floods. CALFED staff have prepared an overview of CALFED Flood Protection Opportunities (Attachment 7) which was provided to the Governor's Task Force. A preliminary report from the Governor's Flood Emergency Action Team (dated February 10, 1997) will be available at the meeting for the CALFED agencies. Agencies will have the opportunity to discuss ongoing efforts related to flood management.

C. CALFED Policy Issues

Cost-Share Agreement (Status/Update)

A subgroup comprised of Federal and State members has been established to begin work on a cost-share agreement. Roger Patterson will provide a status of the progress of the subgroup. Currently the cost-share agreement is envisioned in three components: short-term issues relative to Proposition 204, long-term issues related to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and integration of user fees.

December Accord (Discussion)

Tom Hagler will provide an oral update on discussions currently being held and issues being identified relative to the December Accord.

Fish Screen Policies (Status/Update)

As discussed at the previous Management Team meeting, an issue paper is being developed to address a process for criteria and assurances for fish screens. A status of this effort will be provided by NMFS and FWS.

Watershed Policy (Discussion)

The issue of watershed management and watershed coordination has been discussed at several public and agency meetings over the last several months. Within the CALFED Program, watershed management is an integral part of the water quality component in addressing the water quality problems. Additionally, as a result of Proposition 204, the State Water Resources Control Board will begin an effort to conduct watershed management activities. CALFED staff will lead a discussion relative to the role of watershed management within the CALFED program, the need to coordinate with Federal

and State entities with management responsibilities within the watershed but outside of the CALFED problem scope, and the need to develop a watershed management policy that attempts to define the relationships of the federal and State agencies to address the problems in the upper watersheds. Attached is a general Watershed Policy developed by the CALFED Program and reviewed by the agency Program Coordination Team which provides an overview of the issue (Attachment 8).

D. Coordination with New Federal Agencies (Status/Update)

As discussed at several previous meetings, other Federal agencies have been approached to coordinate activities with or become an official part of the CALFED effort. Patrick Wright will provide an update on these efforts, discussions that have been held with the agencies, and the relationships that may formed to coordinate activities with these other federal agencies.

E. Other

CALFED Ops Group (Status/Update)

Bob Potter will provide an overview of the activities being addressed in the CALFED Ops Group.

CVPIA (Status/Update)

Roger Patterson and Laura King will provide an overview of the CVP 97 forecast. The Service and Reclamation will also provide an update on the status and allocation of the 800,000 AF, stakeholder issues and concerns, and the status of the AFRP.

Interim South Delta (Status/Update)

Bob Potter will provide an update on the status of the Interim South Delta Program and the nature of the comments received on the draft EIS/EIR.

American River Water Resources Investigation (Status/Update)

Roger Patterson will provide an update on the status of the American River Water Resources Investigation.