



Date: June 27, 1997

To: CALFED Policy Group

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

Subject: Upcoming CALFED Policy Group Meeting

The CALFED Policy Group will meet on **Wednesday, July 2, 1997 in Room 1131 in the Resources Building from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Please note that the meeting time has been extended for 1 hour to accommodate all agenda items.** Attached is a draft agenda for the meeting (Attachment 1). Also attached is the June 17 Management Team meeting summary (Attachment 2).

Agenda items are categorized as discussion, status/update, and decision/concurrence. A more detailed description of the agenda items and attachments follows:

A. CALFED Bay-Delta Program Issues

Alternative Narrowing Process (Discussion/Concurrence)

Lester Snow will provide an overview of the narrowing and evaluation process that will be used to select a draft preferred alternative. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is currently evaluating 17 alternatives built around three separate conveyance concepts to address the problems of the Bay-Delta. Information necessary for the narrowing and evaluation process will come from several concurrent efforts including:

- Impact analysis
- Prefeasibility studies
- Other institutional input (i.e., SWRCB, ESA, etc.)
- Assurances plan
- Financial plan

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

As these concurrent efforts progress, the amount of information available to make decisions about each of the alternatives will increase and become more refined. Whenever enough information is available to show that an alternative is not implementable in comparison to the other alternatives, it will be removed from further consideration or modified to improve its performance. As more information becomes available, additional alternatives may be modified or removed from further consideration. The remaining alternatives will be measured on how well they meet the Program objectives, how well they meet the Program solution principles, and their respective impacts. CALFED staff will conduct this evaluation and make some initial assumptions on a reasonable balance of the various tradeoffs between the alternatives and then make recommendations regarding the preferred alternative. The information from the five concurrent analysis efforts described above will be displayed in a manner which will allow the CALFED agencies and stakeholders to compare and contrast the remaining alternatives and select the preferred alternative.

Timeline for Interim Decisions and Selection of a Draft Preferred Alternative (Update/Discussion)

Lester Snow will review the timeline for the development and selection of the draft preferred alternative over the next several months. He will also review information regarding interim decisions that will need to be made and agreed to by the CALFED agencies as we work through the process described in the previous agenda item.

No Action Alternative and Affected Environment (Decision)

Rick Breitenbach will provide an overview of the issues that have been resolved regarding the no action and affected environment relative to the resource categories, projects and the non-project items. The attached memorandum describes these issues in more detail (Attachment 3).

Schedule for HCP Preparation (Update/Discussion)

Mike Spear and Lester Snow will provide an overview of the efforts to coordinate EIS/EIR and HCP schedules to meet the needs of the agencies and the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. An attached memo provides some background for a discussion at the meeting (Attachment 4).

B. Restoration Coordination Program (Update)

Staff will give an update on the recently released RFP and the process and time line for evaluating and selecting proposals. Information will be provided regarding the role of the review panels and the selection of panelists. A two tier evaluation process is described in the RFP--technical review panels that score individual proposals, and an integration panel that will recommend how funding should be allocated among the priority species, habitats, and stressors listed in the RFP. CALFED staff have requested suggestions for agency and non-agency names for both the technical review panels and the integration panel.

C. Process for Resolution of CVPIA(b)(2) Water (Update)

Roger Patterson and Mike Spear will provide an overview of the proposed stakeholder process that has been established to address the issue of the CVPIA (b)(2) water. Attached is copy of a letter distributed by them outlining the process (Attachment 5).

D. December Accord Extension (Decision)

The attached memo outlines the actions that are needed to address the Bay-Delta Accord extension (Attachment 6).

E. Flood Management (Update/Discussion)

Patrick Wright will provide an overview of activities since the last CALFED Management Team meeting regarding flood management. He will also provide an update on the supplemental funding.

F. Revised 1997 Operations Plan (Update/Discussion)

Bob Potter and Roger Patterson will provide an overview of the progress on the development of the revised 1997 Operations Plan.

G. Other

Federal/State Cost Share Agreement (Update)

Zach McReynolds will provide the Policy Group with an overview of the progress on the cost-share agreement (included as Attachment 8).

Interim South Delta (Update)

Bob Potter will provide an overview on the interim South Delta Program.

NMFS Essential Fish Habitat Rulemaking Proposal (Update)

Several stakeholders have commented on the relationship and potential significance of the recent NMFS proposed rulemaking for Essential Fish Habitat to the CALFED long-term program. NMFS will provide an overview on this topic.