



Memorandum

Date: August 6, 1997

To: CALFED Policy Group

From: Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

Subject: CALFED Decision Process

Summary

CALFED has discussed on a number of occasions that the primary CALFED decision (issuing a final EIR/EIS and selected alternative) is an individual agency decision. Each agency must execute its responsibilities and authorities in final certification under CEQA and issuance of a Record of Decision under NEPA. However, there are many subordinate decisions which must be made collectively on our path to the "big decision." The secondary or subordinate issues (e.g., consideration of Program timeline and Category III priority projects) need a clear decision process. While our informal process has served us well to this point, as the frequency of decisions increase and CALFED agencies are added, it may be advisable to more clearly articulate who are the decision makers and how decisions will be made.

This issue is not only important as we consider the subordinate decisions to be made on the path to a final preferred alternative, but also starts laying the foundation for a much more formalized decision making process which may be necessary for the interim period between completion of Phase II and full implementation of the final alternative. While there may be agreement on what existing, new, or hybrid organizations should implement the long-term solution it is likely an interim decision making process will be necessary while structures are being put in place.

Action Items

While the primary purpose of this item is for CALFED to discuss decision making issues, several actions should be considered.

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

August 6, 1997

Page Two

1. Request each CALFED agency to designate their CALFED Policy Group member and alternate to make it more clear who comprises the "board of directors."
2. Continue operating under a general consensus process. However, request CALFED staff and the Management Team to review alternate decision making structures for both the near term and the interim implementation period and report back to the CALFED Policy Group.

Detailed Report

No additional information.