

**Staff Research
Prepared for
Bay-Delta Advisory Council
Assurances Workgroup**

Evaluation of Program Characteristics
for
Chesapeake Bay Program
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South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force
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Columbia Gorge Commission

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Sue Lurie
Executive Fellow
to
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a cooperative effort to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for long-term management of the Bay-Delta system. A 1994 Accord signed by Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt and California Governor Pete Wilson provided the framework for the CALFED Bay-Delta program. Partners to the process are State of California and United States departments and agencies which have management or regulatory responsibility for Bay-Delta resources, and the public.

Common program goals identified for comprehensive planning include ecosystem restoration, water quality improvement, water supply reliability, and levee system integrity. Bay-Delta solution principles require that actions 1) be implementable, 2) be affordable, 3) be durable, 4) be equitable, 5) reduce conflicts, 6) result in no significant redirected impacts.

Purpose

Developing a solution that can meet long-term planning goals, and creating specific actions that meet solution principle criteria, require new interagency and public-private relationships along with highly flexible management strategies. The program must also provide assurances--the full range of administrative and legal tools from Congressional legislation and regulatory authority to contracts and market incentives--that the solution, once identified, can be implemented and operated as agreed to by all interests.

Various CALFED work groups have expressed interest in knowing more about how other complex resource management programs have handled different resource and administrative issues. This report presents examples of various program successes and challenges that may help CALFED determine what types of administrative structures, management techniques and funding strategies best serve its needs.

Criteria and Methodology

No program's range of human, natural and economic resource issues are identical. The report focuses on various aspects of different programs to gain insight on issues that do not generally show up in program special or annual reports: the hows and whys of institutional relationships, public involvement and the decision process. It relies almost exclusively on telephone interviews with various program participants and administrators for this information. A range of perspectives has been sought wherever possible to provide balanced insight on how different participants feel about various program characteristics. Additional information was gained through review of various reports, web site materials, and data available from Tetra Tech, Inc. Reporting on the programs should not be regarded in the same manner as comprehensive and detailed case studies: it is reporting of perceptions as much as it is reporting of facts, and it is often selective in the facets of a given program that it examines.

Inquiry into various programs were based on the following areas of interest:

- Resource Problems and Program Responses
- Administrative Structure
- Assurances
- Funding
- Policy and Project Implementation Strategies
- Contingencies

Draft Report

The current report is an early draft. It should be considered a preliminary attempt to provide examples and observations which might help various CALFED program workgroups answer questions and refine strategies for policy and program design and implementation.