



M e m o r a n d u m

Date: August 5, 1998

To: CALFED Policy Group

From: Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

Released for US

Subject: Status Report on BDAC Deliberations on the CALFED Implementation Strategy and Framework Document.

Summary

The Bay Delta Advisory Council reviewed and discussed the evolving CALFED Program implementation strategy at its recent meetings in May, June and July. BDAC members were asked to review the framework document and provide feedback to the CALFED staff.

BDAC comments on the framework document focused on the following issues:

- staged implementation versus staged decision-making
- the appropriateness of surface storage actions in Stage I
- the need for stronger linkages across programs
- financing the program: balancing public and private funding
- the need for criteria for measuring progress, and for quantifiable goals and/or objectives in all common programs

Comments made covered a broad range of points of view, with no apparent consensus at this time, particularly with regard to the inclusion of surface storage actions in Stage I. At the conclusion of the discussion on staging at the July meeting, Vice- Chair Sunne McPeak requested BDAC members to submit written comments to CALFED, offering specific suggestions for revising the document. Three BDAC members submitted comments which were reviewed and integrated into the current draft. BDAC members did agree that the Program needs to clarify the process for making decisions on the success or failure of Stage I. They also agreed that identifying the decision-making institution and the proper

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

role of stakeholders by the end of this year would clarify how the Program will move from one stage to another. They also explicitly asked for clarification of their role in assisting the Policy Group in reaching a decision on a draft preferred alternative.

BDAC members will be asked to discuss these issues in depth at the upcoming meeting in Stockton on September 10 and 11.

Policy Group members will be invited to join BDAC members at the Stockton meeting for this discussion.

Detailed Discussion

The following are highlights of BDAC discussion and comment on the issues identified above.

Staged Implementation Versus Staged Decision-Making. Some BDAC members, primarily members of the environmental community, support a phased decision-making approach to program implementation. This approach would delay any decisions on additional new storage or conveyance facilities until certain threshold actions had taken place and only when and if "non-structural" approaches in all the common programs have proved to be inadequate to meet the Program objectives.

BDAC member Roberta Borgonovo, who serves as Chair of the Ecosystem Restoration Work Group, summarized this position in her written comments on the framework document, and cited excerpts from the comments on the draft EIR/S submitted to CALFED by the Environmental Water Caucus. Ms. Borgonovo reported in her comments that the Ecosystem Restoration Work Group had concluded that CALFED needed to do more focused research to answer key uncertainties before making decisions on major storage and conveyance alternatives.

Other members of BDAC cited the need to retain sufficient water supply flexibility by allowing for preliminary studies of surface storage in Stage I, subject to defined conditions and contingencies. Others asked that CALFED strengthen linkages between groundwater storage/conjunctive use and surface storage planning.

Linkages. BDAC members generally agreed that linkages between the Common Programs need to be developed more completely. Vice-Chair McPeak specifically requested a status report for the September BDAC meeting on targets and indicators currently being developed for the Ecosystem Restoration Program.

Examples of specific comments made include:

- the need for strong linkages between ecosystem restoration and the water quality program
- the need for strong linkages between the water use efficiency program and proposed surface storage and/or conveyance actions
- the need for a much more detailed set of assurances and program linkages

Water Use Efficiency Program. BDAC members continue to debate the parameters of the CALFED Water Use Efficiency Program. Some BDAC members believe that long-term water supply reliability for all users and for the environment can be achieved through an aggressive efficiency program which reduces overall demand on the Delta. They continue to urge CALFED to pursue its economic analysis comparing the relative costs and benefits of demand reduction actions versus construction of new surface storage. Others believe that demand management alone will not provide adequate stabilization of supply.

Action

Information Item. Selected Policy Group members will be invited to attend the September BDAC meeting, specifically to participate in the BDAC discussion on the framework document, including those issues identified above.