

**CALFED Policy Group
Meeting Summary
August 13-14, 1998**

Public Comments Update

- Staff summarized the key areas of concern regarding the Draft Preferred Alternative and Framework document that have been expressed by Bay-Delta Advisory Council Members. CALFED Policy Group members were invited to the next BDAC meeting on September 10 and 11 in Stockton to have a joint discussion on the Draft Preferred Alternative and Framework document.
- Staff summarized the comments received on the Draft EIS/R. The majority of comments fell into five areas: conservation, new facilities, agricultural issues, area of origin/water rights, and finance/beneficiary pays.

Draft Preferred Alternative

- **Schedule.** Staff presented a proposal for revising the schedule for the release of the Revised Draft EIS/R. The proposal was to release the preferred alternative in December 1998 and the Revised Draft EIS/R in April 1999. The current schedule is to release both the preferred alternative and Revised Draft EIS/R in December 1998.
- Action. Policy Group did not reach agreement on the revised schedule. Due to the tight schedule to prepare the documents, Policy Group proposed that CALFED Management Team be actively involved in the review of the documents. In addition, more meetings of the Management Team or a subgroup of the Management Team are needed in order to prepare issues to be elevated to Management Team and if necessary Policy Group.
- **Framework Document.** A brief update on the August 5 version of the Framework document was provided. The draft was broadly circulated to stakeholders and the public. Comments are due at the end of the month.
- Action. Policy Group requested copies of the comments on the Framework document.
- **Policy Framework Paper.** Staff presented the three-page description of the initial framework for the preferred alternative which includes the significant components from the larger Framework document. Policy Group was asked to make a decision to support the initial framework for the preferred alternative which would lay the foundation to proceed with Program refinement. Policy Group had a lengthy discussion and provided comments and edits to the three-page Policy Framework.

- Action. Policy Group supported the Policy Framework (as revised at the meeting) and indicated they believed the framework lays the foundation to proceed with the Draft Preferred Alternative.
- **1998-99 Actions**. Staff presented a table on the proposed 1998-99 Actions, as summarized in the three-page Policy Framework. Policy Group was asked to identify the agency staff that would be involved in implementing the actions and to identify a lead staff person.
- Action. The table was reviewed and edited by Policy Group, and staff identified for implementation.

Accord Extension

- The issue of the scope and timing of the Accord extension was discussed. Concern was expressed regarding outside events and programs in 1999 that could have an impact on water supply reliability. Policy Group requested that a companion list of those events and programs be prepared and efforts made to minimize the impacts.
- Action. Policy Group agreed to a simple extension of the Accord similar to that provided for 1998.

Financing

- Staff provided preliminary cost estimates for Stage 1 actions. Concerns were raised regarding how the benefits and water supply yields were characterized in the table. Requests were made to include the financing principles in the next distribution.

Program Updates and Issues

- **Water Transfers**. A staff report was provided on the developments being made in the BDAC Finance Work Group on the clearinghouse.
- **Water Quality**. A brief summary was provided on the Water Quality Technical Team efforts to refine the program plan and Stage 1 actions. An update on the Bromides Panel was provided. Concerns were raised regarding whether the appropriate panelists were included for the tasks of the panel. Staff proposed a resource advisor group to assist the panelists on subjects more unique to the Bay Delta.
- **Watershed Management**. Staff provided an update on the watershed program. Policy Group requested that the state and federal watershed efforts be coordinated including mapping and identification of priority watersheds.

- **Water Use Efficiency.** Staff provided an update on the WUE program, schedule, and issues still to be resolved. Concerns were expressed regarding Issue No. 4—differences between Ag MOU and CVPIA Conservation Criteria, and No. 5—Water Use Efficiency Potential.
- Action. Based on the concern regarding the water demand assumptions and estimates used in the WUE program, Policy Group requested a combined stakeholder and agency meeting to discuss the estimates and assumptions. Staff agreed to provide a facilitated technical meeting to address the issue.

Fish Diversion Effects/NoName Group

- Staff presented an update on the activities of the Diversion Effects on Fish Team (DEFT). Concerns were raised on the task of DEFT regarding species recovery. DEFT will identify through-Delta options which provide substantial progress towards recovery. DEFT was asked to identify what was best for fish while considering water supply impacts. Also Policy Group requested more coordination between the Interim South Delta Program and DEFT.
- The NoName Group presented a summary of their efforts to identify actions to increase water supply reliability. DEFT and NoName are increasing their coordination in an effort to identify options for fish and water supply improvement.