

**CALFED Policy Group
Meeting Summary
November 9, 1998**

Draft Phase II Report

The November 3rd draft of the report was discussed. Staff reviewed the recent changes in the document. A December release date is still scheduled. Discussions need to continue with agencies and stakeholders on key issues.

Restoration Coordination

Staff presented a review of the priorities for 1999 ecosystem funding and the process occurring to develop priority actions for funding in 1999.

Staff also presented a proposal by federal agencies to receive additional funding for their work managing and overseeing ecosystem contracts.

Concerns were raised that the administrative costs varied between the different agencies.

Action: Staff were asked to report back on the estimate of administrative costs for the Restoration Coordination Program with a recommendation for an annual percentage for administrative /planning activities. Program should try to stay at or close to 3 percent depending on what activities are covered by the 3 percent.

Action: Policy Group recommended approval of the additional funding of \$997,307 for federal agencies to manage and oversee implementation of the ecosystem contracts/projects.

1999 Operations Plan

The status of the 1999 Operations Plan was discussed. The need to have a operations plan in effect by the time of the release of the Phase II Report in December was emphasized.

CALFED Program Oversight and Management

Staff provided an overview on the status of developing options for governance when implementation begins in 2000.

Concerns expressed that while all options should be considered, staff should focus on options that are incremental steps which focus on critical functions that need modification during implementation.

Policy Group members reminded staff that existing authority should not be taken from existing agencies. Staff and BDAC work group need to work closely with each agency, interviewing each agency. Reminder that this is not an academic exercise. Concern raised to not create a new super entity.

Long Term Joint Point

Policy Group discussed the need for a consensus approach to developing a proposal for the State Board. Concerns were raised that consensus could not be reached before a request submitted to the Board and that a process should be part of the proposal defining how a decision would be made. Follow up on the issue should occur at Small Group meetings.

Other Items--Madera Ranch Update

USBR reported on the Madera County Farm Bureau meeting. Also indicated that more feasibility evaluations are requested but need some cost share with the locals.