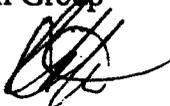




M e m o r a n d u m

Date: March 23, 1999
To: Federal-State Small Group
From: Steven R. Ritchie 
Subject: Summary of March 22 meeting outcomes
Calendar of weekly meetings, March 30-May 25, 1999

This memo summarizes the status or outcomes from issues discussed at this morning's Federal-State Small Group meeting.

Facilitating Federal Contract Obligations

David Cottingham provided a short status report on efforts on the federal side to expedite the signing of contracts for federal appropriations which have already been made. He was scheduled to meet all day today with each federal agency to expedite the contracting process. Also included in these sessions were Wendy Halverson-Martin of CALFED and Susan Ramos, Chuck Wiebe and Nan Yoder of the Bureau of Reclamation.

FY 2001 Federal Budget

David Cottingham and Mike Spear discussed the different approaches to CALFED budgeting of the Water and Power Subcommittee (overseeing Bureau of Reclamation budgeting) on the one hand and the Interior Subcommittee (overseeing Fish and Wildlife Service budgeting) on the other.

Mike expressed the desire to see an effort at the Secretarial level to communicate with the Interior Subcommittee on this, to make it clear that it is the Department of the Interior's policy to distribute CALFED expenditures across the federal CALFED agencies.

South Delta Improvements

Barrier Study--

Study group will have options developed by Friday, March 26.
Stein Buer committed to a full review of the practicability of the non-barrier approach.

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

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Next steps: This issue will be before the Policy Group for a decision on May 15. Small Group will meet weekly, and this issue will be brought back to the Small Group for weekly progress reports. Progress report will be provided at the next Small Group meeting on March 30.

Tracy Fish Screen Program--

Mike Spear reported that the fisheries agencies and EPA are preparing a position paper outlining concerns about the technical drawbacks of screening Tracy and the implications of committing monies to this project rather than other ecosystem restoration projects.

Mike also pointed out that they will probably also conclude that Tracy needs to be considered in the context of all the proposed South Delta improvements, and therefore will not be brought forward separately to the Policy Group at their meeting on April 15th.

Outcome: Mike Spear and Jim Lecky supported the Bureau's proceeding with a proposal for funding to pursue further feasibility study. Kirk Rodgers stated that the proposal will integrate the concerns raised by the fisheries agencies.

Next steps: Progress report at the next Small Group meeting on March 30.

VAMP

Outcome: CALFED supports implementation of VAMP as described in the March 15 letter to Assemblyman Machado.

EIR Schedule

Outcome: Group agreed to meet weekly on Tuesday mornings through May in order to ensure that they will have the opportunity to review and approve each of the CALFED program plans, as well as address the several critical policy issues and program components which will require Policy Group approval.

Description of the Preferred Program Alternative

Outcome: Group agreed to review and be prepared with comments at the next Small Group meeting on March 30.

Please reserve each Tuesday morning through the end of May for our Small Group meetings. All meetings will be held from 9-12 in Room 1142. The dates are as follows:

Tuesday, March 30

Tuesday, April 6

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Tuesday, April 13

Tuesday, April 20

Tuesday, April 27

Tuesday, May 4

Tuesday, May 11

Tuesday, May 18

Tuesday, May 25

A tentative schedule of agenda items will be faxed to you this week. As always, thank you for your dedication to the CALFED Program.