

CALFED Policy Group

June 17, 1999
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Resources Building
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1131
Sacramento



Memorandum

Date: June 11, 1999

To: CALFED Policy Group

From: Lester A. Snow

Subject: June 17 Policy Group Meeting

The CALFED Policy Group will hold its next meeting on Thursday, June 17, 1999, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Room 1131 of the Resources Building in Sacramento.

A principal focus of this meeting will be on the status of the draft revised EIS/R and proposed release strategy. CALFED staff and state and federal agency staff will discuss highlights of the Phase II Report. In addition, they will provide Policy Group with an assessment of stakeholders' concerns as reflected in comments received on the Phase II Report. We will also be discussing our plan for release of the EIS/R, the proposed calendar of public hearings, and current plans for a proposed joint event with the Secretary and the Governor in early July.

A policy issue which emerged again in the process of revising the Phase II Report was the role of demand projections and how CALFED was addressing demand projections in the Program generally and in the EIS/R specifically. CALFED staff will address the significant questions and issues which have continued to be raised and how the Program has addressed these concerns. We will be seeking your concurrence on the approach we have developed.

We will be devoting significant time at this meeting to the ongoing issues pertaining to CALFED interim and long-term governance. Several of you will have participated the day before in an expert panel workshop on governance sponsored by the California Environmental Trust. We have invited one of the convenors of that workshop to be available at the Policy Group meeting to provide a summary of the proceedings of the workshop.

In addition, CALFED staff will be presenting a process to facilitate your reaching a decision on long-term governance by December 1999. This will include a review of all relevant personnel actions, document amendments and potential legislative actions which must take place to allow for a smooth transition into Program implementation in June of

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

2000. For example, it is likely that we will be re-drafting the original CALFED Framework Agreement in order to clarify inter-agency relations and responsibilities. In order to familiarize you with the original language, we have included a copy of the Framework Agreement in your meeting packet. Other governance issues which the Policy Group must resolve include decision-making procedures, membership, and more specific details regarding the role of BDAC and the public in CALFED governance. We have also enclosed for your review the report from the Natural Resources Law Center on governance issues, including options for defining lead agencies and decision rules. In order to meet your commitment to BDAC to reach a decision on long-term governance by the end of the year, we will have proposals before you on all of these issues, as well as others, over the next five months. We are tentatively planning to convene another joint session with BDAC and the Policy Group in November to review the status of the development of a proposal for long-term governance.

At the meeting of the Federal-State Small Group this week, participants began to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of extending the Bay-Delta Accord which is due to expire in December 1999. Different opinions and perspectives were expressed regarding the need for and the role of an extended Accord. We will be bringing this issue before you next Thursday and seek your views and your guidance on how to proceed on this matter.

At our meeting next week you will be asked to approve the final proposal of 1999 Restoration Coordination Program projects. You will also be asked to consider several proposals for ecosystem water acquisition utilizing FY 98 funds which were set aside for that purpose. The Ecosystem Roundtable will be taking up these issues at their meeting on June 16. We will have their final recommendation to you at your meeting on the 17th. Your packet includes the following items:

- Phase II Report
- Agenda
- EIS/R Release Strategy
- Memo on Governance
- CALFED Framework Agreement
- Reports from the Natural Resources Law Center (1998)
- CALFED Draft Assurances Research Report (1998)
- Memo on Demand Projections
- Letters of support on USBR Water Acquisition proposal
- Memo on Restoration Coordination projects
- CALFED Ops Group meeting summary
- May 13 Meeting Summary
- Miscellaneous Correspondence

Additional memos on governance and demand projections will be sent to you early next week. I look forward to our meeting.