



M e m o r a n d u m

Date: November 8, 1999

To: CALFED Policy Group

From: Steven R. Ritchie
Acting Executive Director

Subject: Executive Director's Report

The purpose of the Executive Director's Report is to brief the CALFED Policy Group and members of the public on recent activities and milestones in the CALFED Program. This report focuses on aspects of the Program which are not scheduled for discussion at your meeting on November 17.

Recent Developments

1. Battle Creek Dedication

On November 8, Secretary Babbitt and Secretary Nichols met in Sacramento to announce the restoration project under way on Battle Creek. This major restoration project, a collaborative effort between CALFED agencies, PG&E, The Nature Conservancy, and the Packard Foundation, is supported in part with \$28 million from the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Coordination Program.

2. Environmental Justice Representation on BDAC

CALFED state and federal leadership recently decided to expand the membership of the Bay-Delta Advisory Council to include two representatives of California's environmental justice community. These two individuals will serve on BDAC until the signing of the Record of Decision. Nominations are currently under consideration for individuals active in both urban and rural environmental justice organizations. It is anticipated that these new BDAC members will be appointed by mid-December.

Recent CALFED Program Activities

1. Water Quality Program

In September, the Water Quality Program was reorganized into the new Drinking Water Quality Program. The Program was reorganized to elevate drinking water issues and to implement the CALFED Drinking Water Quality Improvement Strategy as defined in the June 1999 Revised Phase II Report. Actions associated with environmental water quality were transferred to the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program. The following are summaries of significant efforts:

CALFED Agencies

California The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board
Department of Food and Agriculture

Federal Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Geological Survey
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Forest Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service
Western Area Power Administration

(a) **Delta Drinking Water Council**

The Delta Drinking Water Council, a subcommittee of BDAC, held its first meeting on November 3, 1999. The mission of the Council is to advise the CALFED Program and the CALFED Policy Group through BDAC on necessary adaptations to the CALFED Drinking Water Quality Improvement Strategy to achieve CALFED's drinking water objectives. The Council was briefed on CALFED's Drinking Water Quality Program, the Improvement Strategy, and FACA requirements. The Council discussed its expectations regarding role and technical support. The Council's next meeting will be held December 16, 1999.

(b) **South Delta Early Implementation**

Two early implementation actions will be maintained in the Drinking Water Quality Program (the others were transferred to the Ecosystem Restoration Program):

- Improved source water quality for Rock Slough intake
- Assessment of sources and magnitudes of loadings of drinking water constituents of concern

Two workgroups have been formed to address each of these action areas. These workgroups have been meeting to identify feasible projects and studies.

(c) **Drinking Water Quality Operations Workgroup**

A workgroup has been formed to explore the ability of water exchanges, conveyance changes, and storage development and operations to achieve progress towards drinking water quality objectives. This workgroup has been meeting to consider, refine, and analyze operational concepts for water quality improvement, with a special focus on new storage facilities under the Integrated Storage Investigation. A study recently completed by the workgroup suggests that new storage facilities and operations could play important roles in Delta drinking water quality enhancement. Workgroup findings are being incorporated into a comprehensive analysis that considers other water management objectives such as water supply reliability and operational flexibility. This workgroup will also provide technical support to the Delta Drinking Water Council.

2. **Water Transfers**

Recent work efforts on water transfers have included the following:

(a) **Transfer Agency Group**

The Transfer Agency Group has been meeting routinely to develop standard reservoir refill criteria and protocols for tracking water transferred to instream purposes.

(b) **Water Transfer Application Process**

USBR and CALFED staff continue to meet to develop the start of an on-line water transfer application process. Work has included meeting with a web-site developer

as well as interviewing several USBR staff currently responsible for reviewing specific water transfer proposals.

3. Watershed Management Program

On November 5, the BDAC Watershed Management Work Group held its regular meeting in Oakland. The meeting focused on discussion of how CALFED could better integrate urban watershed activities and activists into the overall Watershed Program.

CALFED staff, the Watershed Work Group and the Interagency Watershed Advisory Team expect to complete, by the end of November, identification of priority activities and development of a decision-making process for expending funds and providing technical assistance to local watershed groups.

4. Levee System Integrity

The Emergency Response Sub-team of the Levees and Channels Technical Team has produced a Final Draft of the Delta Levee Emergency Management and Response Plan. This Plan outlines a general strategy and associated needs to improve federal, state and local Delta levee emergency response capabilities. The Emergency Response plan is a key element of the Long-term Levee Protection Plan, which is an appendix of the Programmatic EIS/R.

5. CMARP

The CMARP program is progressing on several different fronts. Provided below is an update on programs that have not been described in previous Executive Director reports.

(a) Management Level Indicator Development

In coordination with the ERP and Water Quality program, a proposal to develop "management level indicators" for these programs is being prepared through CMARP. Indicators for the other CALFED programs will also be developed as experience is gained through this effort.

(b) Geographic Information Systems

CMARP staff are working with other CALFED program staff to identify GIS needs and to recommend a system to meet those needs.

(c) CALFED Data Management

The CALFED Program has selected the Bay-Delta Tributary Relational Database (BDTRD) to manage data being developed by the Early Ecosystem Restoration Program. Several monitoring programs within the Bay-Delta, including the Interagency Ecological Program, CVPIA's Comprehensive Assessment and Monitoring Program and the Sacramento River Watershed Monitoring Program, are currently using the BDTRD. The BDTRD uses a relational database management system (RDBMS) that is able to store, manage, and relate among data sets, various types of physical, chemical and biological data. This system provides technical staff the ability to relate and query data from different data types, which facilitates analysis and reporting efficiency.

The primary benefit of this project is not only to provide access to Early Ecosystem Restoration Project data, but also to integrate these data with other data developed by other programs to assess environmental responses to ecosystem improvements. Data outputs are accessible using a PC, Macintosh, or Workstation. An Internet browser is used as an interface. Through their browsers, users perform simple and refined queries, obtaining results quickly and efficiently.

An RDBMS structures data into relational tables, and provides the platform from which data can be transferred onto the file server, where the data become Internet-accessible. Maps from which a user can select a location and receive data have already been developed. Internet technology, such as image mapping, is linked with existing database technology, creating a query based on location, and efficiently transferring data to the user. This technology fits easily into the growing use of GIS technology in federal, state and local agencies.

In addition to efficient data retrieval, RDBMS users are also able to query diverse data types including water quality, hydrodynamic, meteorological, biological, terrestrial, wetland, fisheries, and modeling data collected by research and monitoring programs that are placed into relational tables. Users are able to retrieve all related data based on a single query in a matter of seconds, compared to the hours or days it might take them trying to obtain data from various sources.

6. Water Use Efficiency Program

Progress continues on the Ag Water Use Efficiency Strategic Plan. Draft Targeted Benefits have been developed and are being refined for review by ecosystem, water quality, and water supply reliability experts. Discussions within the Ag Water Use Efficiency Steering Committee (formerly the Focus Group) have concentrated on assurances and incentive program criteria.

In the Urban Water Use Efficiency program element, a draft incentive framework has been developed that could potentially be used to rank potential conservation projects on their potential to provide water quality and timing benefits as well as water supply benefits. Over the next few months, this framework will be developed into criteria for urban water use efficiency incentive funding.

7. Finalization process for the CALFED Programmatic EIR/S

Over the past several weeks since the close of the Public Comment period, CALFED staff and agencies have been working to ensure that CALFED provides consistent and comprehensive responses to the thousands of comments received on the draft EIR/S. CALFED staff have briefed the Federal-State Small Group on a weekly basis on the types and nature of comments received. Agencies will be reviewing the CALFED responses over the next two to three months prior to completion of the final EIR/S.