



M e m o r a n d u m

Date: January 11, 2000

To: CALFED Policy Group 

From: Steven R. Ritchie
Acting Executive Director

Subject: December 15, 1999 CALFED Policy Group Meeting Summary

Participants:

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of Resources Mary Nichols, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Patty Beneke, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Dr. Joseph Westphal, Major General Hans Van Winkle, USACE; Margit Aramburu, Executive Director, Delta Protection Commission; Ryan Broddrick, California Department of Fish and Game; David Cottingham, DOI; Tom Hannigan, Director, DWR; Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Hayes; Luana Kiger, NRCS; Jim Lecky, NFMS; Steve Macaulay, Deputy Director DWR; Col. Peter Madsen, USACE; Felicia Marcus, Regional Director, Region IX USEPA; Phil Metzger, USEPA; Brad Powell, USFS; CALFED Acting Executive Director Steve Ritchie; Mike Shulters, USGS; Mike Spear, Regional Director USFWS; Lester Snow, Regional Director, USBR; Bill Vance, CalEPA; Nancy Werdel, WAPA; A.J. Yates, California Department of Food and Agriculture.

BDAC Participants:

Mike Madigan, Chair; Sunne McPeak, Vice Chair; Hap Dunning, The Bay Institute; Tom Graff, Environmental Defense Fund; Mike Stearns, San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority; Alex Hildebrand, South Delta Water Agency; Stu Pyle, Kern County Water Agency; Ann Notthoff, Natural Resources Defense Council; Steve Hall, Association of California Water Agencies.

Other BDAC members in attendance: Mike Shaver, Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians; Brenda Jahns-Southwick, California Farm Bureau Federation.

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt opened the Policy Group meeting with some brief comments. The Secretary indicated that he intends to be active in the next few months assisting the CALFED Program in achieving a successful transition into implementation. He noted that his Deputy Secretary, David Hayes, will be also very involved over the next several months. The Secretary also noted with regret that Assistant Secretary Patty Beneke will be leaving the Department of the Interior early in 2000. He complimented her on her contributions to the CALFED Program.

CALFED Agencies

<p>California</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Federal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service U.S. Forest Service Department of Commerce National Marine Fisheries Service Western Area Power Administration
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CALFED Co-chair Mary Nichols welcomed Margit Aramburu, Executive Director of the Delta Protection Commission, the newest member of the CALFED Policy Group. She also noted the addition of two new members to the Bay-Delta Advisory Council. They are Marta Guzman, Legislative Director for the United Farmworkers and Tori Estrada of the Urban Habitat Program.

Water Operations Strategy

Lester Snow provided a briefing on current water operations, the potential effect of CVPIA b(2) actions on federal contractors, and the potential for minimizing those effects by use of different proposed water management actions including Joint Point of Diversion and acquisition of water or options for water acquisition by the Bureau. He noted that effects of b(2) would be concentrated primarily on the West side of the San Joaquin Valley, and on Municipal and Industrial CVP customers.

Mr. Snow also reported on the water quality problems that have developed in the Delta as a result of closure of the Delta Cross Channel for fisheries protection. Steve Macaulay, DWR, briefed the Policy Group on possible actions to minimize the impacts of the closure of the Cross Channel. Mr. Snow stated that the Bureau intended to convene a series of meetings of the No-Name Group to address the question of how to fill San Luis Reservoir and to look at the utility of JPOD given current conditions.

Steve Macaulay and Alf Brandt, DOI, also briefed the Policy Group on the recent deliberations of the Water Management Development Team, the group convened to work through details for an Environmental Water Account. The WMDT has made considerable progress toward developing the EWA; however, certain significant issues remain unresolved. In answer to a question from BDAC member Tom Graff regarding the future of the WMDT, Steve Ritchie replied that a decision had not been made.

Co-chair Mary Nichols commented that this kind of crisis is a good example of why CALFED is necessary, to anticipate and plan for such circumstances and to have available a toolbox of water operations actions to forestall water supply or water quality crises.

BDAC Vice-chair Sunne McPeak noted that how this crisis is resolved might be seen by some as an indication of whether CALFED can succeed.

Outcome: Information only.

Water Management Strategy Framework

Mark Cowin and consultant Paul Brown briefed the Policy Group on progress to date on the development of a long-term evaluation framework for the CALFED Water Management Strategy. The performance measures that are being developed in the Evaluation Framework will be used in CALFED's comprehensive analysis of water management alternatives. Preliminary results of this analysis will be completed by early February 2000.

Outcome: Information only.

Long-term Governance

Kate Hansel of CALFED distributed copies of the revised Principles for CALFED Governance and discussed outstanding issues and next steps in the process of reaching consensus on a long-term governance structure. Kate noted that the Bay-Delta Advisory Council had registered general support for the concept of a Commission, but did not agree on all of the functions of the Commission, specifically the potential for a separate entity for governance of the Ecosystem Restoration Program.

CALFED Co-chairs Mary Nichols and Patty Beneke noted the need for federal and state legal input before the Policy Group can issue a final okay.

BDAC Chair Mike Madigan urged CALFED to continue in its current direction toward a final long-term proposal.

BDAC member Ann Notthoff commented that the extent to which CALFED can come to agreement on the program elements and functions of long-term, governance will be as important to legislators as the actual proposed structure.

BDAC members Stu Pyle and Brenda Southwick commented that the principles should include local as well as state and federal representation.

Co-chair Mary Nichols noted that it is time for more active involvement from the Policy Group.

Outcome: The Policy Group concurred in the current direction CALFED is moving with regard to the proposed long-term governance structure.

FY 2000 Non-ecosystem Spending

Steve Ritchie presented CALFED's proposed breakdown of non-ecosystem-related CALFED spending for FFY 2000. The proposal included detail on proposed spending, program by program.

Outcome: Federal/state concurrence.

FFY 2000 Ecosystem Spending: Science and Monitoring Component

Wendy Halverson Martin presented a revised and more detailed proposal for funding of the Science and Monitoring component of the Ecosystem Restoration Program for FFY 2000.

Outcome: Federal/state concurrence. Policy Group approved expenditure of \$7.4 million for the Ecosystem Program Science and Monitoring component.