

Notes from 3/22/96 CALFED Working Group #6 Discussion Alternatives A, D, E, H, and J

GENERAL

1. Jim Spence stated that a small West Side Sacramento Valley project with only 1-2 MAF of storage was reasonable to meet west side ag demands, but the larger one in alt I is not doable.
2. Frank Wernette stated that alt J needs more storage to supply exports demands at key environmental times. South of Delta storage is more effective than Delta storage, but in-Delta storage has more potential uses. In-Delta storage is of little use to alt J since there is no way to export water. North of Delta storage can be fed to outflow or exports during dry periods.

AGRICULTURE AND MUNICIPAL WATER QUALITY

CENTRAL DELTA

1. **Problem:** Water quality problem for Delta agriculture for Alternatives H and J. Salt build up in the Delta because of discharges from Delta islands and runoff from San Joaquin River forming most of central Delta water (without Sacramento water flowing through the Delta). **Solutions:**
 - a) Release water from chain-of-lakes (H) and along route of canal (J) during July through August period to reduce salt concentrations in Central Delta. *(Frank Wernette stated that releases from the isolated facility would not confuse salmon migration in these months, because few salmon migrate through the Delta during these warm months.)*
 - b) Increase inflow to Delta from increased Mokelumne River outflow by supplying EBMUD aqueduct directly from Isolated Facility and reducing EBMUD diversions from Mokelumne River.
 - c) Increase inflow of higher quality water into Delta via San Joaquin River from New Melones Reservoir.
 - d) Supply Delta agriculture directly from isolated facility (J) or chain-of-lakes (H) where possible.
 - e) Revise standards for Delta to reflect only agricultural uses. *(Jerry Johns stated that standards for Delta could be relaxed if only to meet ag requirements.)*
 - f) Delta islands soils could be leached more effectively than they are now.
2. Present water quality problems would continue with alternatives A, D, and E, because salts would still enter from western Delta and from agricultural drainage on the Sacramento River, San Joaquin River, and Delta islands.

WESTERN DELTA

1. Possible benefit from release of water from chain-of-lakes.

SOUTH DELTA

1. Water quality for south Delta agriculture could be improved if supplied directly from the isolated facility (J) or chain-of-lakes (H). This would help reduce the need for releases from New Melones during summer low flow season to maintain water quality standards at Vernalis.
2. For demand management it is important to buy lands that directly affect water quality of the San Joaquin River. Action 42.06 reduces demands from Delta but doesn't really reduce salt load in the San Joaquin River. Reducing salt load on San Joaquin River frees up New Melones water that is used to meet Vernalis water quality standard.
3. The water hyacinth problem could increase under alternatives J and H.

EXPORT WATER QUALITY

1. Alternatives H and J provide excellent water quality for ag and M. High turbidity of H could be some problem.

AQUATIC HABITAT**TRANSPORT CONDITIONS**

1. Alternative E - the downstream diversion point at Walnut Grove is preferred over Hood because of the enlargement of Steamboat Slough (less salmon young would be exposed at Walnut Grove).
2. **Problem:** Alts D and E will increase fish movement across Delta from Sacramento. **Solution:** Greater Delta outflow required in Feb-Jun transport period to overcome potential losses to Delta. Greater San Joaquin River flow also needed to flush Delta and minimize movement of fish from Central Delta to South Delta pumping plants.
3. **Problem:** Alts D and E (as well as H and J) will decrease transport below diversion point in the lower Sacramento River, which could be a detriment more young salmon, delta smelt, splittail, striped bass, and American shad. **Solution:** Don't reduce flow in lower Sacramento River (higher outflow).
4. Jim Spence believes Alt H has only 100 TAF of usable storage in chain-of-lakes, not the 300-600 TAF stated.
5. All we need is an alternative that keeps salmon out of the Delta (H and J is best, but D at least keeps Sacramento salmon out).
6. **Debate:** Creating a lot of habitat in the Delta (alt E) may reduce need for transport. OR Habitat in the interior Delta may favor predators and make it harder for young salmon to make it through.
7. Non-native fish production in alt H chain-of-lakes could be a problem that limits ability of releasing water to the Delta from the lakes.

SALINITY

1. Alternatives can benefit salinity habitat in several ways:
 - a) physically enlarge entrapment zone
 - b) higher outflow for any given month
 - c) sustain outflow longer - more acre-days
2. Details of Action 14.02 needed.
3. How much water is needed for more habitat?
4. Alt J adds most Suisun Bay habitat - that is good.
5. Alt E has a good spring salinity benefit.

TOXINS

1. Taking land out of production is better than source controls, which have been ineffective.
2. Retaining discharges until later is also bad.

PRIMARY PRODUCTIVITY

1. What about turbidity and toxicity effects?
2. Very broad and complex topic; more detail needed.

VULNERABILITY

1. Concern for vulnerability of levees on other islands in alt H.
2. Concern that the areas where money is focused in alts is different. May not be most important areas. (For example: alt E focuses on the north Delta; H focuses on chain-of-lakes.)
3. What is the benefit of alt H in reducing the tidal prism?