

May 6, 1997

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

**OPERATION MEETING**

Meeting Date: May 5, 1997  
 Time: 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
 Location: Rm. 1142, Resources Building

Present:

Steve Yeager	CALFED
Kathy Kelly	DWR
George Barnes	DWR
Bruce Herbold	EPA
Gary Stern	NMFS
Ron Ott	CALFED/Consultant
Dale Flowers	CALFED/Consultant
Bob Pine	USFW
Mike Thabault	USFW
Stein Buer	CALFED
Mark Cowin	CALFED
Gary Bardini	CALFED
John Renning	USBR
Frank Wernette	DFG
Jim White	DFG
Ted Roefs	USBR
Carolyn Yale	EPA

**DISCUSSION**

1. Information Packet

Stein Buer updates the group on CALFED storage and conveyance activities referring to the meeting information packet. The packet contains information on storage and conveyance component configuration, operating parameters and DWRSIM assumptions for CALFED Benchmark Study 472.

## DISCUSSION

### 2. Discussion on Operating Parameters

#### A. Surface storage operated for long-term benefits

- 1) Carryover Storage. Bruce Herbold expressed the need to maintain some environmental storage for cold water releases for north Delta storage. Environmental storage operation should hold back some ERPP water for later use (something less than avg. annual maximum).
- 2) Wording Issue. George Barnes suggests the word "primarily" be added to maximized average annual deliveries.
- 3) Ecosystem Operations. Steve Yeager said CALFED will attempt to model a range of operations for ecosystem water. Mark Cowin asked the group if environmental operations should maximize environmental storage and reduce the need water acquisitions. Group tabled making any decision on this subject. Dick Daniels expressed that environmental operations could back environmental water into Shasta storage or south of Delta storage in above normal water years.
- 4) Timeline. Barnes says the CALFED timeline is too short for any significant sensitivity analysis on different environmental operation scenarios.
- 5) Environmental Benefit Criteria. Herbold questions the environmental benefits of supplying environmental water for dry/critical years over above normal water year. Mark Cowin provides a graphical representation of the ERPP flow targets versus water supply from existing flows, new storage and water acquisitions in different year types for discussion purposes.

#### B. Filling and Discharging Priorities

- 1) DWRSIM logic priorities. George Barnes states that DWRSIM priorities generally maximized the movement of water south of the Delta. The groundwater criteria might be in conflict with the DWRSIM logic. Steve Yeager says the model can include a new groundwater constraint to prevent the aggressive operations of the groundwater basin. Dick Daniels adds that the CALFED program is not intended to maximize SWP water supplies.

## DISCUSSION

- C. 1/3 environmental, 1/3 urban, 1/3 agricultural split of new storage
- 1) Total benefits vs 1/3 each facility. Some issues on whether the criteria applies to each proposed facility or 1/3 benefit from all proposed facilities combined.
- D. Tributary Instream Requirement
- 1) Diversion Criteria. Bruce Herbold questions the reason for proposed diversion standards for offstream storage on the tributaries. He suggests that if the diversion rules are for geomorphology purposes, then specific technical explanations are needed from various experts. Once the criteria has been developed, then it should be applied to all tributary surface water projects. Dick Daniel will work with one or more fluvial geomorphologists to develop a scientific basis for the flow event targets.
- E. Delta Standard w/Isolated conveyance
- 1) Rio Vista. The group has questions over the Rio Vista flow requirement. The requirement of 4500 cfs in all months, all year types for new upstream storage Alternatives appear too conservative. The flow requirement will reduce environmental storage available for other purposes.
  - 2) Cross Channel. Ted Roefs expressed concerns about Central Delta water quality with the increase in Delta Cross Channel closures. Dick Daniels prefers that the gates remain closed. Discussions occur on the hydrodynamic modeling of the Delta by DWR and CALFED along with possible isolated canal connections to Delta agriculture.
  - 3) E/I Ratio. Bob Pine and Mike Thabault express concerns with the E/I ratio. They stated that CALFED should be adjust the existing standards. The group recommended that the E/I ratio be modeled with the isolated canal diversions both included and not included in the ratio. Gary Stern said the assumptions should at a minimum maintain the same level of Delta protection.

### 3. Action Items

CALFED staff will modify the draft operating parameters handout to reflect the concerns of the group. (Attachment)