

**Program Coordination Team
Meeting Summary
November 12, 1997**

Highlights/action items:

- There will not be a PCT meeting in December, due to the full meeting schedule. Agency folks are encouraged to attend the upcoming Management and/or Policy Team meetings to stay informed. If you need more information about current CALFED activities, Judy Kelly will help (call 916-653-6791). The next PCT meeting is set for January 14, 1998.
- Agencies have received the draft of the Delta Levee System Protection Plan for review. Comments are requested by November 26 and will be used for a Levees and Channels technical team meeting on December 8 (Resources Agency Building room 1142). Direct comments to Rob Cooke.
- Red flag review of a draft "Water Transfers in the Context of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program" was requested by November 14 (Friday). Rick Soehren would like to give this paper to the BDAC Water Transfer Work Group at its meeting Friday November 21 [9 a.m. - noon, DoubleTree Hotel (Salon B), 2001 Pointe West Way, Sacramento]. Agencies have already seen an earlier version.
- Rick Breitenbach distributed a draft memo from Lester Snow on review of the administrative draft programmatic EIS/EIR and filing procedures. In anticipation of an administrative draft in mid-December, the memo lists information requested from each agency by the end of November, including:
 - List of recipients of administrative draft -- names, addresses for direct mailing, number of copies
 - Name and phone number of an internal contact within each agency--someone designated to answer questions about the Program and EIS/EIR.

This information will be included in the distribution letter to the agencies, to aid the review process.

- Leo Winternitz requests comments by December 1 on a draft "Concept for the Comprehensive Monitoring, Assessment, and Research Plan" for the CALFED Program. Leo would especially like ideas for using, or building from, existing programs.

Meeting notes:

Levee program (Rob Cooke, 916-653-7217)

The draft Delta Levee System Protection Plan will be revised and amplified over the next ten months (by September 1998), and will serve as a technical appendix to the Program EIS/EIR. Elements of the program include a Base Level Protection Plan (proposed standard is COE PL 84-99); Special Improvement Projects (above baseline levels); Subsidence Control Plan; Emergency Management Plan; and Seismic Risk Assessment. In addition to material on levee design to provide habitat, the draft Plan contains a recent draft report on priority areas for subsidence mitigation (Appendix D). The seismic risk assessment (Appendix F) is still in preparation. Currently the Plan does not discuss flood plain easements but this concept may be included in later revisions. Additional work includes cost estimates and funding, resource allocation, and developing implementation plans for improvements and maintenance. Comments on the draft requested by 11/26. Technical team meeting 12/8.

Impact analysis (Rick Breitenbach)

Rick Breitenbach reviewed a memo on timing and procedures for review of the administrative draft EIS/EIR and filing of the official public document.

As noted above (action items), agencies are being asked to line up reviewers (local, regional and HQ offices) and identify a point of contact who can field questions about the Program and review process. Under the current schedule, the administrative draft EIS/EIR will be sent out in mid-December to allow agencies time to review and prepare for a mid-January agency retreat. Agencies should anticipate on sending only a few people to the 2-3 day retreat to conduct intensive revision of the EIS/EIR.

In addition to the reviewers and contact list (action items), agencies should identify for CALFED any special NEPA or CEQA filing procedures. According to Rick, a 60 day comment period is planned, but there was some PCT discussion that a longer period would be preferable.

Rick noted that current revisions will include more information on benefits of actions (not just adverse effects). Some of this information will appear in an integrated "Program benefits" document.

The impact analysis technical appendices issued in September are being revised but will not be distributed again for agency review prior to release of the administrative draft EIS/EIR in December. Given the compressed time frame, it is also unlikely that any substantive changes in Common Programs such as levee stability (now in review) could be incorporated in the administrative draft.

Interagency Development Team/Distinguishing Characteristics (Loren Bottorff)

Loren reviewed material presented last week to BDAC on IDT thinking regarding refined versions of Alternatives 1, 2, and 3, and current information on distinguishing characteristics. Outstanding issues include water use efficiency (some work is being done to "beef up" water use efficiency in Alternative 1); fish screens (whether to screen, location, and methods); and facilities capacity. All improved versions of 1, 2 and 3 would have storage but capacities are still being evaluated.

The schedule anticipates Policy Group choice of a preferred alternative in December. Thus, the mid-December administrative draft EIS/EIR would not reflect a preferred alternative. Based on discussion between PCT participants and CALFED staff, there appears to be some uncertainty regarding how alternatives will be, or should be, represented in the draft EIS/EIR. The current version (pre-administrative draft) refers to the 12 alternatives. When a "thirteenth" optimized or preferred combination of elements of the 12 is developed (based on IDT work and Policy Group recommendations), this information could be added to the NEPA/CEQA document; the range of impacts analyzed for the 12 variations would, it is hoped, encompass impacts of the new hybrid.

Some PCT representatives felt that presenting 12 or 13 alternatives to the public would be confusing, and that three "optimized" alternatives (based on IDT work) should be used.

ERPP update (Terry Mills)

CALFED will continue to accept comments on the ERPP as it refines the Program. A general response to comments on Volumes I-III is in the works. Terry reported that work also is being done on identifying implementation costs for ERPP actions, improving material on some of the zones, developing conceptual models and indicators-- etc. In some parts of the Sacramento Valley local watershed conservancies have become interested in working with CALFED to improve the ERPP (e.g., Stony and Natomas creeks). Major changes in the ERPP are not planned for the DEIS/EIR. DFG noted that, while they expect appropriate changes in due time, they do not consider revision necessary before release of the Program EIS/EIR.

The relationship between the Program habitat conservation plan and the ERPP continues to confuse some of the public. Terry reiterated that the ERPP is not intended as mitigation for CALFED Program impacts (e.g., the terrestrial species impacts of facilities).

Geological Survey-- Bay/Delta studies (Larry Smith)

In November-December the Geological Survey (through the Biological Resources Division) will be "refocusing funding" under its Ecosystem Initiative to give greater emphasis to the Bay-Delta. Larry is involved in this and would welcome suggestions on priorities which could take advantage of GS expertise.

Comprehensive Monitoring, Assessment and Research Plan (CMARP/Category III Project Monitoring (Leo Winternitz; 916-227-7548)

The CMARP (comments by December 1) is intended as a CALFED Program-wide process. Leo requested ideas on how to best work through existing programs such as SFEI and IEP. However, since some aspects of the CALFED Program, such as water use efficiency, are not ecosystem-focused, we will have to think more broadly.

On a separate topic: Leo will soon prepare a draft proposal addressing Category III-funded project monitoring needs. The monitoring system he envisions probably requires: a work group chair-coordinator (full-time, funded); work group members recruited from agencies (part-time effort); and funding for data base management (using existing system, such as IEP). The work group would determine if a project needs monitoring, review project monitoring plans, ensure timely implementation of monitoring, review and report on monitoring information.

State Board activities (Jerry Johns)

The State Board will complete its draft EIR on Bay-Delta water rights by the end of November. Expect a 60 day review period, with March hearings.

A Watershed Protection and Restoration Council (comprising State agency directors) has completed a draft report inventorying California protection activities (and gaps) for anadromous fish. Jerry, who was especially involved in the section on coastal watersheds, will make copies of the report available to PCT members.