

BAY-DELTA ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, August 16, 1995 -- Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn, Sacramento, CA

Welcome and Introductions

Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) members were welcomed to the second BDAC meeting by Chairperson Mike Madigan, and Vice-Chairperson Sunne McPeak. Mike Madigan officially introduced Sunne McPeak as Vice-Chairperson, and introduced Doug Wheeler, Secretary of the Resources Agency, and David Cottingham, Department of the Interior. A self introduction by each BDAC member was conducted. Mike Madigan thanked BDAC members who had attended the August 3 public workshop and encouraged BDAC members to attend as many of the public workshops and public meetings as they could. He also provided some comments on meeting structure and encouraged public comment during the meeting, at the appropriate time, and during the public comment period. Twenty three BDAC members were present at the meeting (Attachment 1).

Review of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Process

Lester Snow provided a brief presentation reviewing the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Process as outlined in the draft Plan of Action provided to BDAC at the previous meeting on June 29, 1995. The presentation focussed on explaining the phased approach, the timeframe for the first phase and the steps in the first phase.

Current Program Activities:

Summary of the August 3 Workshop, Status of Problem Definition, and Program Objectives

Dick Daniel provided a brief overview of the August 3 public workshop held at the Red Lion Hotel in Sacramento. A draft version of the Problem Summaries were provided to BDAC. These revised Problem Summaries included information gained from the public workshop and additional staff work conducted to refine the problem definition. Dick explained the approach for linking problems, objectives, causes and actions and provided examples. He also outlined the purpose of the next public workshop on September 14, to begin to define the objectives and mission.

Comments from BDAC included concerns that the geographic focus was too narrow and didn't include problems in the San Francisco Bay. It was indicated that we need make linkages with the Bay where specific linkages exist. This issue was deferred until the discussion of geographic

scope later on the agenda. Another concern was that the problem statement must recognize that all beneficial uses may not be met under existing conditions. Additionally, it was noted that although we are trying to move away from single species management to a multispecies approach, if we utilize an adaptive ecosystem management approach, we have the flexibility to adjust for a single species if they do not respond. There were also concerns that the draft Problem Summaries did not adequately capture the problems that were discussed at the workshop. CALFED staff will provide summaries of raw data from the workshop to workshop participants.

BDAC members may submit comments on this draft of the Problem Summaries to be included in a draft that will be sent to workshop attendees on September 1. They may also comment on the draft that will be sent out on September 1. We will discuss this draft Problem Summaries document at the September 14 public workshop and will then finalize the Problem Definition. We hope to have the final problem definition by October.

A break for lunch was taken from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Geographic Scope

Lester Snow provided an overview of the geographic scope proposed for the Bay-Delta Program. He explained the geographic scope for problem identification and the solution set. He also gave some specific examples of the types of problems that would and would not meet our criteria. BDAC was provided with a draft discussion paper on Geographic Scope.

Comments from BDAC focussed on the need to not necessarily make the geographic scope too narrow and to ensure that some problems in the San Francisco Bay were closely linked to the Delta. Some BDAC members felt that the term "manifest in the Suisun Bay/Suisun Marsh and Delta area" was too narrow for problem identification. At another point in the Geographic Scope issue paper, there is a reference to "problems manifested within or closely linked to the Delta". BDAC members agreed that this statement more precisely described the relationship and did not eliminate some problems that they felt should be included, and moved to use this language. One distinction was made that in many cases, specific problems manifested in the San Francisco Bay has specific authorities established to address these problems while problems in the Delta may not.

Another concern that was raised was the issue of social and economic impacts to communities and how these would be addressed. BDAC members expressed concerns that these types of impacts are often only considered late in the process. Transfers of water out of agricultural communities have substantial negative secondary impacts to the communities.

Mission Statement

Judy Kelly provided an brief overview and review of the Mission Statement.

Upcoming Program Activities

Public Outreach Activities

Lester Snow and Judy Kelly gave an overview of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program existing and proposed public outreach activities. These activities include liaisons with various groups to ensure that they get timely information on our activities, formal public meetings and workshops and publication of periodic written updates. Judy also reviewed upcoming public workshops and public meetings through the end of 1995.

BDAC members indicated the need to some public meetings in the San Joaquin Valley and other areas outside of Sacramento and Northern California.

Development of Performance Measures, Actions and Categories and Solution Strategies

Steve Yaeger provided a brief overview of the steps in Phase 1 that we expect to begin addressing at the third Public Workshop. Steve also provided a general timeframe as to when these steps would be addressed.

Concerns from BDAC focussed on the current issue of legislation which may impact the Central Valley Project. Lester Snow reiterated that certain problems still need to be addressed regardless of who runs the Central Valley Project and our job is to devise a strategy to address those problems. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is trying to establish a link with all the other ongoing and proposed activities that are also addressing problems. We are developing a "big picture" report and hope to have that completed for the next BDAC meeting in October.

BDAC members also raised concerns as to the future of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program if the Central Valley Project is transferred to another entity. Roger Patterson assured BDAC that there is a strong commitment by the Federal government and explained the current funding situation among the Federal agencies. Whatever the outcome, a regulatory framework will exist and must be recognized.

Concerns were also raised about the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. Comments from the public indicated that the protections of CVPIA are very important and should not be ignored. Roger Patterson indicated that the Department of Interior has taken the position that amendments to CVPIA are not necessary. Most concerns can be handled administratively and invited BDAC to help DOI work through these changes. The Bureau of Reclamation will begin holding workshops to deal with this issue.

Financial Strategy

Zach McReynolds gave a brief overview of activities within the CALFED Bay-Delta Program to develop a financial strategy for solutions once they are developed. He outlined a strategy to begin identifying options for raising funds, critiquing those options and then matching up the options with proposed alternatives. Zach also presented two discussion briefs to BDAC members which were produced by a group labeled the Business Roundtable. These discussion briefs have been sent out by the Business Roundtable to focus groups for review and comment. They are also being reviewed by a Task Force comprised of sponsors. It was emphasized that these discussion briefs are very preliminary.

Finalized Operating Procedures

Sharon Gross provided an overview of proposed changes to the BDAC Operating Procedures based on discussion at the previous BDAC meeting and advice from State and Federal counsel. These changes include clarification of who BDAC reports to; voting and the need to ensure minority reports; and clarification as to substitutes for members who cannot attend a meeting. Concerns were raised about the three quarters majority needed to adopt the Operating Procedures. It was explained that the three quarters majority was necessary only to adopt the Operating Procedures, because most BDAC members should agree to them. For other voting applications, only a majority of a quorum is needed. BDAC voted to adopt the Operating Procedures.

Public Comment Period

Paul Simpson - Plumas County Board of Supervisors - He attended the public workshop and has submitted written comments to BDAC. He feels that many of the problems identified apply to watersheds. He reminded BDAC that watersheds are critical and affect the Delta. He called attention to the fact that some of the value of the water at the Delta needs to be shared with the area of origin watersheds.

Ed Petry - Mendota - Expressed concern about the San Joaquin area water quality and thanked BDAC.

Byron Buck, Richard Golb and Gary Bobker - Stakeholders - Officially representing the Stakeholders Group, committed to keeping BDAC apprised of activities and providing coordinated input into the process.

Gary Bobker - Bay Institute - He expressed concerns about the mission statement and felt that the only strong mission it relayed was to improve certainty.

Meeting adjourned 3:55 p.m.