

Date: April 19, 1996

To: BDAC Ecosystem Restoration Members and Invited Participants (Attached List)

From: Mary Selkirk, BDAC Ecosystem Restoration Work Group Chair *S. Selkirk*

Subject: BDAC Ecosystem Restoration Work Group Meeting

The first meeting of the BDAC Ecosystem Restoration Work Group will be held on Monday, April 22, 1996 at the Resources Building, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1131, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. I would like to thank all of you for agreeing to participate in the Ecosystem Restoration Work Group.

The Work Group concept was developed by the CALFED Program staff along with the Chair and Vice-Chair of BDAC. Attached is a brief summary describing the objectives of the BDAC Work Groups. The Ecosystem Restoration Work Group (ERWG) will function as a smaller, more focused, fact-finding body to BDAC and the CALFED staff in developing and refining the overall Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Strategy.

Participation

-Participants in the ERWG represent three primary groups: BDAC members, members of stakeholder groups, and CALFED agencies. In addition, any others and members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings. Members of the ERWG were determined in two ways. At the March 21, BDAC meeting, interested BDAC members and others were invited to contact the ERWG Chair to be considered for inclusion in the initial list of work group members. Following that meeting, two individuals contacted the ERWG Chair and asked to be participate. Subsequently, the ERWG Chair and CALFED Program staff met and drew up a list of potential interested BDAC members and representatives from the stakeholder groups and CALFED agencies. Criteria for selecting participation include the following: familiarity with the range of issues facing the long-term solution to Bay-Delta restoration; demonstrated ability to present the perspective of an important constituency concerned with Bay-Delta restoration; commitment to attend series of meetings through the completion of Phase I of the CALFED Program, and possibly well into Phase II (it is estimated that the ERWG will meet up to once a month for the next three months); and receptivity to different points of view and a willingness to consider several options before framing or recommending policy choices.

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries

CALFED/8

Work Group Focus

The focus of the Ecosystem Restoration Work Group will include the following specific policy issues now facing the CALFED Program:

- Development of an appropriate vision for Bay-Delta restoration;
- What is the best reference we have for restoring a healthy condition in the Delta? What target indicators-- both population and terrestrial-- need to be agreed to? How should historical information be used to develop restoration goals? Should CALFED focus on historical ecosystem functions?
- How should adaptive management be defined for CALFED?
- What institutional assurances/structure are necessary to ensure restoration of ecosystem health?

Other policy questions identified by the work group may be added to the debate and discussion. Attached is a brief Statement of Purpose for the BDAC Ecosystem Restoration Work Group.

General Operating Procedures

All materials developed by the ERWG are fact-finding in nature. Participants in the ERWG will not be voting on any issue, nor will the ERWG itself be making any decisions. All the work products from the ERWG will be used to assist the CALFED staff and the BDAC in this crucial stage of refining a strategy and associated actions for Bay-Delta ecosystem restoration.

Other guidelines for participants in the ERWG are as follows:

- Participants will respect the views and values of each ERWG member;
- Emphasis throughout this ERWG process will be on identifying zones of agreement in defining and implementing a CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Strategy. Disagreements will be regarded as problems to be solved rather than battles to be won; and
- Work group members will continue to participate in all meetings for the greater good and success of the CALFED process and to ensure their insights are incorporated into CALFED's work, even if they do not agree with all of the options that are taken to BDAC for consideration.

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Written Reports

All issues discussed and analyzed, and any options developed by the ERWG, will be summarized in a single report, or reports, and provided to the full BDAC. These reports may take the form of issues or option papers and will be drafted by CALFED staff, subject to review by all ERWG participants. Only one report, or set of reports, will be submitted to BDAC, rather than competing versions of facts or options. ERWG will discuss time lines for reports to ensure that all reports will be completed in time to be reviewed and discussed by BDAC and by the CALFED staff and utilized in the alternative refinement and evaluation process.

CALFED staff will provide summaries of each ERWG meeting to all participants.

I hope this information provides you with sufficient background for Monday's meeting. In order to facilitate discussion, CALFED staff have attached an annotated draft outline of the CALFED Bay-Delta Vision and Ecosystem Restoration Strategy.

Attachments