

**WATER  
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**CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM**

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Date: March 31, 1997

To: BDAC Members

From: Sharon Gross *Sharon Gross*  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Subject: Water Use Efficiency Component Update

Listed below are major discussion points from the March 20 workshop in Sacramento, organized according to the issues outlined in the workshop packet. Most of comments reiterated previous discussions on the issues; however, for some issues, additional points were raised by workshop participants.

**MEETING OUTCOMES**

**Purpose of the Water Use Efficiency Component**

- Environmental representatives asked that the component focus more on reducing system diversions and include water reclamation and water acquisition as tools, to help restore the environment. Water users preferred keeping the purpose as it is.
- It was suggested that the component include assurances for effective use of environmental water, and conversely that proposed new diversions not negatively impact instream flows.

**Land Retirement**

- Environmental interests proposed including land retirement as a tool to reduce demand, taking into consideration local economic impacts. Representatives of the agricultural community expressed varying views on the issue. Some are comfortable with a voluntary program, as long as food supply meets demand. Others are not supportive of a retirement program.
- It was suggested that inefficient use of urban lands be considered, if agricultural land uses are to be scrutinized.

**Assurance of Agricultural Efficiency**

- Agricultural interests expressed concern that the proposed two year time frame for developing water management plans and beginning implementation did not provide

**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 Service

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sufficient time. Clarification (by a focused group) of the level of implementation needed to avoid regulatory intervention, was requested.

- It was suggested that plans required and approved by the USBR under CVPIA should be accepted by the new AB 3616 Council.

#### **Assurance of Urban Efficiency**

- Urban interests proposed that if DWR certifies the adequacy of urban water management plans, certification criteria should be developed with stakeholder input.

#### **Water Measurement and Conservation Pricing**

- Attendees discussed the validity of following the CVPIA approach to water measurement. A suggestion was made to include both the CVPIA and AB 3616 MOU approaches in the CALFED component. The more rigorous requirements of CVPIA could be linked to CALFED benefits (new water, transfers).
- One attendee requested that local water users be invited to help develop a pricing mechanism.
- On-farm measures will not be cost-effective if customers do not pay for water based on quantity used.

#### **Cost Effectiveness**

- It was suggested that water savings programs be analyzed according to different perspectives such as customer, agency, statewide perspective..
- It was suggested that a cost/benefit analysis include risk factors to respond to changing conditions. Analyses should be watershed based, rather than be focused on local areas.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

- What was evident from the workshop discussion was that more progress on resolving the issues can be made when interests look at fully integrated alternatives, and consider actions and benefits from the other components. Component integration into complete alternatives is currently being conducted by CALFED staff.

With respect to assurances, little additional progress may be possible until other assurance needs in the Bay-Delta program are fully understood, and a comprehensive assurance package can be drafted with the help of the Assurances Work Group.